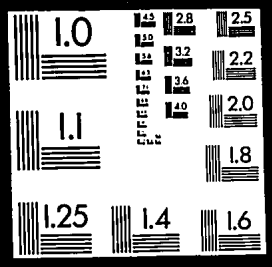

14:1

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Thomas A. Edison Papers

A SELECTIVE MICROFILM EDITION
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(1911–1919)

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START

277

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Letterbook, LB-111 (1916)

This letterbook covers the period March-May 1916. Most of the correspondence is by Edison and William H. Meadowcroft. Included is correspondence pertaining to Edison's benzol absorbing plants, toluol shipments, and other chemical manufacturing interests. Additional items concern Edison's vacation in Florida and the disposition of historic equipment. The correspondents include U.S. Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, investment banker Clarence Dillon, and representatives of Mitusi & Co.

The spine is stamped "Letters" and is marked "T.A.E. From Mar.14-1916 To May 6 1916." The number "49" also appears on the spine. The book contains 712 numbered pages and an index. Approximately 15 percent of the book has been selected.

(CONTINUED)

Amer. Oil & Supply Co., 50-51-89-90-109-223-224-225-277-278-446-539-585-639-
Acosta, A. G. 77-
Amer. Philosophical Society 93-
Ashmead, H. A. 108-
Amer. Ribbon & Carbon Co. 110-
Adlerika Co., 168-
Atlanta Terra Cotta Co., 178-
Anton, C. 186-
Aston, Mrs. W. 246-
Aetna Explosives Co., 279-
Ambricky, J. 308-
Amer. Printing Co., 340-376-
Anthony, A. A. 341-
Adm. Board of the Chamber of Comm. 375-
Andrews, W. S. 390-
Applegate, G. H. 417-453-
Albert, Mrs. C. 495-
Arnold, Miss E. 497-
Alrich, Mrs. L. L. 644-
Army and Navy News 658-
Amer. Oil & Supply Co, 689-690-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X

B

Ballantine, J. B.	1-
Breman, A. J.	2-
Bacon, J.	17-19-157-185-222-329-361-362-387-440-446-477-534-564- (CONTINUED)
Beran, J.	52-
Bobbs-Merrill Co.	53-
Butterworth-Judson Co.	70-596-
Burrows, C. G.	72-
Beaver Mfg. Co.,	78-
Banister, R. H.	91-181-182-
Bowle, R. A.	111-
Brown, W. H.	112-
Bang, N. C.	113-
Bayer Tanning Co.	158-
Blakes, G. J.	187-
Buckwalter, D. T.	226-
Bredt & Co., F.	247-619-
Bain, H. G.	248-
Burns, J. N.	249-
Bloom, E. E.	280-
Bua, F. A.	309-
Boothman, C. J.	310-
Butler, Dr. N. M.	313-
Bratten, J. U.	314-
Bush, J. A.	333-
Binney & Smith	342-389-540-
Brooks, E. G.	343-
Badham, Mrs. A.	344-
Berry, Prof. B.	387-
Bell, J. C.	391-
Brisbin, E	392-
Brantley, P. H.	393-
Bell, L.	394-
Bellis, B.	395-
Boro Chem. Co.	418-
Brown, G. H.	419-
Bache & Co., J. S.	441-

Brennan, J.	475-
Bowsky Fur Dressing & Dyeing Co.	498-
Brown, J. W.	499-
Byars, W. H.	500-
Berlin Mills Co.	501-
Boyle Co., J. H.	541-
Benjamin, S. H.	542-
Bacon, J.	586-649-
Barker, E. C.	598-
Barber, Mrs. J. M.	657-
Bancom, G. E.	672-

C

Clymer, A. L.	3-
Condensite Co. of Amer.	4-
Cochran, A.	18-
Cambria Steel Co.,	22-653-
Cameron, A.	25-
Clark Co., A. N.	54-
Chambers, W. A.	55-
Condensite Co. of Amer.	79-
Clark, J. E.	114-
Church, W. L.	115-
Clinedinst, B. M.	116-345-
Chem. Dye Mfg. Co.,	117-
Crighton, Miss M.	118-
Claassen, Mrs. C. W.	188-250-
Carrier, W.	189-
Cairns, W. K.	190-
Carew, T. J.	251-
Crocker, P. O.	311-
Crosby, M.	315-
Coria, Dr. P.	374-
Caine, J. J.	379-
Chesebro, Dr. E. D.	396-
Cornutt, A. H.	397-
Church, G.	398-
Carpenter, W. S. Jr.	420-421-
Curtis, E. B.	454-
Clement, W. E.	455-565-
Caine, J. J.	456-
Churchill, H. T.	479-
Chidsey, D. N.	480-
Chisenn, P. B.	502-
Cleveland-Akron Bag Co.,	543-
Columbia Paper Co.,	544-
Crowther, S.	545-
Commander Evangeline Booth	599-
Clymer, Dr. J. B.	608-

Cogwell Chest. Co.,	640-691-
Cloud, H. A.	643-
Cook, J.	645-
Chesnutt, J. L.	644-
Clayton, C. W.	692-
Crystal Hosiery Mills Co,	693-
Couch Bros Mfg. Co.,	694-

A B C D

D

De Soto Paint Mfg. Co 5-
De Witt, Mrs. M. E. 26-
Doyle, J. J. 27-
Dickinson & Co., E. E. 56-
Doggett, H. J. 57-
Dillon, C. 71-94-95-381-470-503-546-676-
Dominion Iron & Steel Co. 119-442-
Duke, J. E. 120-
Drexel Knitting Mills 159-267-
Drake, A. 281-
Dodge, S. 316-
Deyoe, J. M. 346-
Dunlap, H. A. 363-
Durkee, J. A. 422-
Doggett, S. 443-547- 609-
Dobling, M. S. 452-
Dentoro, H. M. 457-
Dispatch Export Corp. 472-
Dahn, C. H. 566-
Duncan, C. A. 587-
Daniels, Stan. J. 588-
Duncan, Hoode Co., 610-[redacted]-
Draper, A. W. 627-
Davis, Col. J. D. 637- 695-
Dungan Hoode Co., 659-

Engineering Co, The 6-
Encyclopaedia Britannica Corp. 28-
Eureka Flint and Spar Co. 29-334-
Edison T. A. 174-
Eastman Kodak Co, 191- 282-481-572-638-
Essex Rubber Co. 227-
Edison Crushing Roll Co. 242-
Edison Portland Cement Co. 276-
Estopinal, L. B. 317-
Ely H. W. 399-574-
Evans, Mrs. S. S. 482-
Equitable Trust Co. of N.Y. 562-
Eimer & Amend 573- 629-
Experimenter Pub. Co. 589-
Evans, H. L. 628-
Elyria Enameled Products Co. 661-
Edelman, P. E. 677-

Fort Pitt Steel Casting Co., 50-
Foote Mineral Co., 121-505-635-
Frazer, J. 192-
Franz, J. A. 228-
Frocks, Miss D. D. 229
Forbes & Co., H. A. 252-
Finn, J. H. 347-
Francis, C. W. 400-
Ferguson, J. C. 444-
Formica, R. J. 483-
Foy, Miss J. L. 504-
Field, N. L. 506-
Fuller Co., R. E. 507-
Federal Graphite Mills 563-
Fragar & Co., 567-
Fagan, F. D. 611-
Fulton, J. 630-
Fechenburg, J. F. 631-
Fisher, C. C. 678-

Guenther, J. J. 7-
Guyger, A. F. 30-
Gen. Elect Co, 122-193-349-
Grooner, P. R. 123-
Gilbert, J. J. 160-348-
Gen. Chem. Co., 175-243-253-
Globe Idemnity Co., 194-
Gray, F. 230-
Godfroy, C. W. 254-
Gleisner, H. H. 318-696-
Gibson, Miss D. 335-548-
Gardner, S. 401-
Gibbs, Mrs. F. J. 508-
German Amer. Car Co., 549-
Gade, G. 612-
Griffiths & Co, X. F. 620-

G

Hunter, A. L. 31-
Hanna, H. M. 32-460-
Hay, H. M. 58-
Martin, J. W. 59-
Hofmann, A. J. 60-161-319-426-427-428-459-511½-
Holland, F. P. 81-
Hewitt Rubber Co., 96-
Harris A. B. 104-
Hellar, Miss M. 125-
Hildebrant, W. A. 126-
Hunt, C. E. 127-
Halsey Lumber Co. 128-
Hartsook Studio 129-
Hopkinson Dr. M. 162-
Howell, W. L. 169-
Hubbard Miss D. G. 195-
Hitchcock, R. 255-284-
Hart, A. 283-403-
Hanner, H. S. 285-
Horne, W. E. 330-
Hyden Chem. Wks, 350-425-
Henderson, F. C. 357-405-646-
Hyden, H. 352-
Hartsell, H. W. 353-
Hamilton Co., S. 354-
Hay, J. 386-
Harper, F. 402-
Howe, S. G. 404-
Harvey, E. L. 423-511-
Huber, J. M. 424-
Haynes, C. B. 445-
Hekimian, H. 458-
Hercules Powder Co., 494-
Hill, Mrs. S. V. 509-
Hitt, C. B. 510-561-
Hall, W. R. 512-

Howard, E. P.	575-
Horne, W. E.	584-
Hammermill Paper Co,	621-
Holz, H. A.	622-
Hopkinson Leather Co,	623-
Howe, Dr. H. M.	67[illegible]-
Hilfers, H.	680-
Hempstead, Dr. W. E.	697-

A B C D E F G H

Int. Metal Polish Co., 256-
Insull, S. 336-
Irvine, Miss H. G. 406-
Int. Paper Co., 513-
Industrial Service Co., 643-

Joyce, Lt. J. W. 61- 196- 514-
Jackson, E. M. 62-
Johnson, A. V. 97-
Jordan, M. N. 98-
Jones, W. 124-
Josephi, S. A. 130-
Jenkins, A. R. 194-
Johns-Manville Co. 231- 364- 461- 662-
Jacobson Co., S. A. 232-
Johnson, W. McA. 257-
Jorgens, J. E. 320-
Jennings, E. 429-
Johnstone, J. H. 430-
Jordan & Co., S. 550- 574-
Jones, B. E. 568-
Johnsen, Mrs. J. E. 681-

J

Kilgore, Dr. E. 33-
Knowlton, F. H. 34-
Keith Car Co. 63- 179- 241- 257- 289- 388- 514- 535-
Kehoe, J. F. 82-
Kaplan, A. 99-
King, V. L. 131-
Kaufmann & Son Co, D. 152- 258-
Kimball, F. M. 133 288- 663-
Kinscherf, C. G. 163-
Knecht, Dr. W. 183- 600-
Kennedy, J. J. 198-
Kansas City Star, 286-
Kennedy, L. N. 290-
Knecht, Dr. W. 291-
Kelsey, H. A. 292-
Kirchman, Mrs. A. 312-
Knoblock, J. W. 354-
Kruse, P. J. 365- 462-
Kaye & Einstein 404-
Kimberly, Lieut. [illegible] 1
King, E. W. 515-
Kincaid, F. 516-
Kerr, Dr. A. T. 518-
Kennedy, J. W. 519-
Klipstein & Co, A. 560- 653-
Kuendig, Dr. F. F. 624-

Lenz & Naumann 8-135-
Lovell & Co. 35-
Lisman & Co., F. J. 83-
Lindarbury, H. B. 84-
Lunham & Moore 100-199-259-682-698-
Liebold, E. G. 134-540-
Lawson & Co., F. A. 164-
Lyddon, W. S. 170-321-355-433-
Lindabury, H. B. 233-
Lavanburg, F. L. 244-
Lochner, A. 293-
Lytle, W. C. 432-
Lazard, L. 446-625-647-648-683-699-709-
Laroche, Miss F. S. 520-
Lawson, R. W. 632-

Meeker Foundry Co.,	36-
Mahood, J. A.	37-
Mitsui & Co.,	41-73-176-184-266-268-331-366-382-383-439-469-471-474-487-536-605 (CONTINUED)
Merriam, R. J.	64-
Morgan & Co. J. P.	75-76-
Manchester Edison Society	85-
Merck & Co.	101-242-380-
Mavropoulos Miss B.	137-
Morrow, L. B.	138-
Mitchell, J. W.	165-
Monsanto Chem. Wks,	200-
Merz, C.	201-
Mossman, Dr. F. E.	202-
Morris, P. J.	203-
Moore Chem. Co.,	260-
Marsteller F.	261-684-
Martin J. H.	294-602-
May, P.	322-
Miller W. H.	337-
Michener, J. S.	367-
Mees, C. E.	369-
Murray, Mrs. F.	408-
Merrithew, C. L.	447-
Menken, S. S.	485-
Mango, P.	486-
Mikell, I. J.	591-
Mitsui & Co.,	606-702-712-
Mallory, W. S.	613-
Marriner, J. E.	700-
Muller Gloria Mills	701-708-
Merrimack Mfg. Co.,	710-

McCormick, F. H. 38-
MacKay, A. D. 39-
McKesson, D. 40-
McKaye, W. 136-
McCready, W. W. 139-
McGowan, J. Rear Adm. U.S.N. 323-
McManus, T. J. 368-
McCann, Miss E. 521-
McCullough, J. J. 578-
McKenna, Dr. C. F. 597-
McGraw-Hill Book Co. 601-
McLhenny, T. C. 619-

Mc

Navy Dept. 9-
Nickell, Mrs. E. L. 10-
Nat Cash Register Co. 65-206-
Noisworthy, A. D. 86-
New England Quartz Co. of N.Y. 140-685-
Nolan, Dr. H. O. 166-
Navy League Convention Comm. 204-
Nat. Highways Ass. 205-
Nat Ass of Mfg'rs. 324-
New York Mining & Chem. Works, 338-522-645-704-705-
New York Knickerbocker Real Estate Co., 409-
Novak, Miss R. M. 410-
Neidrich, J. 523-
Neslein, C. 636-
North, F. X. 703-

Ogdyke, C. H. 20-23-66-234-235-295-332-488-489-
Ogdens & Phillips 74-177-269-270-604-
Oeser, Mrs. M. E. 207-
Orion Knitting Mills 236-
Onions J. 262-
Oriental Navigation Co., 686-
Odell, G. S. 706-

O

Paternoster & Co., 11-
Powers-Weightman-Rosengarten Co 12-21-339-
Proudfoot Comm Agency 24-688-
Parker, Dr. T. J. 102-
Porter, E. C. 103-
Perrin, Miss M. 141-
Pilling, W. S. 171-
Phenol Chem. Co, 208-
Phila. Badge Co, 209-
Paterson, D. O. 234-
Peterson, T. O. 263-
Peterke, E. 296-
Pittsburgh Crushed Steel Co, 297-370-
Paramount Pict. Corp. 385-
Peterson, D. C 411-
Person, C. W. 412-
Patterson, Miss H. 473-
Pennsylvania Tank Line 440-
Product Sales Co, 551-
Paterson Parchment Paper Co, 552-
Pollok, R. R. 579-
Potts, E. P. 592-
Presprich, H. 607-
Payne, Seay & Anderson 687-

P

Quasi-Arc Weldtrode Co. 13-

Q

Roy, A. 14-
Ryan, W. D. A. 15-615-
Ransom, H. G. 42-
Reiss, S. S. 43-
Richardson, W. K. 142-
Richardson, H. F. 143-
Rocher, Dr. C. G. 144-
Reich, J. 145- 298-
Renfrew Mfg. Co., 210-
Rockefeller Institute for Med. Research, 238- 301-
Rogers, Dr. J. H. 299-
Ribrovich, J. 300-
Roberts, J. L. 356-
Rush, J. A. 371-
Robinson, C. A. 413-
Rusch, R. 448-
Roberts, L. 463-
Rossnagel, W. E. 524-
Rogers, W. S. 525-
Rikley, C. M. 580-651-
Racine Rubber Co., 704-

R

Stickels, E. H.	16-
Sturtz, S.	44-
Seifter & Son,	45-
Scheel, W. H	46-47-147-436-582-603-616-
Stein, Hirsh & Co.	92- 215-537-669-
Stephens, P. V.	146-
Schlosser, Dr. V. T.	148-
Strauss, L. A.	149-
Smoleno, H.	167-
Stein, L.	172-
Simonds, Mrs. R. C.	211-
Synthetical Chem. Co.,	212-
Stanly, N. P.	213-
Szegel, M.	214-
Stearns & Co., F. W.	221-
Sweet, H.	239-
Stearns, J. W. D.	240-
Swain, H.	245-
Small, J. W.	264-
Shutt, A.	302-
Schleyer, Miss M.	303-
Std. Oil Co.,	325-
Sofransey Co.,	326-
Sloneker, S. F.	358-
Squibb & Sons, E. R.	359-581-
Slick, E. E.	372-378-
Schugam, L.	414-
Stanford, C. D.	415-
Samuel, F.	434-
Schwalm, B. F.	435-
Smith, P. S.	437-
Scharpless Specialty Co.,	438-
Saunders, M.	449-
Schmulowitz Starobins Dubin	450- 670-
Slick, E. E.	451-
Shedd, J. G.	464-

Sec. of the Treasury	465-
Seaton, Miss N.	466-
Sergott, H.	491-
Std. Iron & Steel Nat'l Direct	528-
Stone, Mrs. R. B.	529-
Swedish Chamber of Commerce	538-
Smith, R. H.	553-
St. Regis Paper Co.	559- 594-
Sase Chem. Co.,	559-
Smith, W. A.	593-
Shapiro, H. S.	626-
Sase Chem. Co.,	633-
Siner, R.	650-
Smith, Mrs. A.	652-
Shedd, J. G.	654-
Skillhorn, Mrs. M.	711-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M Mc N O P Q R S T

Tempest, R. 67-
Tolman, P. E. 87-
Tollefsen, C. 104-
Takamine Lab. 150-304-
Thorpe, M. 151-
Thompson & Co., F. A. 152-
Theall, E. S. 156-
Tagliabue Mfg. Co., C. J. 216-
Thornton, S. 217-
Thornton, T. 305-
Truesler, G. E. 327-
Teitz, E. & Malaw, J. 360-
Tregaskis, V. H. 492-
Toronto Carpet Mfg. Co 526-
Taylor E. H. 527-
Taggart Paper Co., 554½-
Thackers Co., B. H. 569-
Tietig, C. 583-
Toledo Univ. 617-
Taylor, L. W. 656-

United States Graphite Co. 68-
United Box and Paper Co. 555-
Urban, J. B. 570-

U

Vredenburgh, L. B. 48-
Valligny, L. P. 58-
Verlet, Mlle. G. 153-
Vogel Co., H. J. 218-373-
Vandeweghe, G. 273-
Verder, Miss B. G. 306-

Whitehouse-Le Compte Mfg. Co., 49-
Williams, L. A. 69-
Williams, A. 105-106-154-274-
Wilson, E. B. 155-
Wildman Magazine & News Service 173-
Weicher, J. 180-
Wik, P. L. 219-
Worthy, S. 220-
Woodi & Co. A. M. 241-642-
White, R. C. 265-
Wood Co., A. M. 328-384-
Ward, H. H. 416-
Whitlock, G. N. 467-
Western Elect. Co., 468-
Watkins Medical Co., J. R. 474-557-641-
Willoughby, C. G. 475-
Whittaker Co., W. A. 493-
Willis, R. 530-
Wells, S. 531-
Waite, W. W. 532-
Worden, W. J. 533-
Williams, J. H. 556-
Weber, G. L. 558-
Woodward Iron Co., 571-
Westendorf, T. P. 595-
Warren, H. T. 618-
White & Co., J. G. 634-
Wilbourne, Mme. R. 641-

York Knitting Mills 275-
Yeager, W. J. 307-

March 14th. 1916.

Mr. J. B. Ballantine,
% Silver Plume Reduction Co.,
Silver Plume, Colo.

Dear Mr. Ballantine:

As you are probably aware, Mr. Edison applied for patent on method and means of treating ores. This is the invention that was covered in the arrangement with the late Mr. Clifford.

The application for patent is pending in the Patent Office, and the examiner has required that it be split up into four divisions.

This is going to be an additional expense, which will be a matter of some three or four hundred dollars.

In the present unsettled state of conditions under which this invention is being used, Mr. Edison is rather desirous of finding out where he stands. Do you think that your associates in the enterprise would be willing to pay the expenses of prosecuting the application in Patent Office under the new requirements.

Awaiting the favor of your early reply, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

March 13, 1916.

Mr. A. I. Clymer,

Van Wert, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Clymer:

Your letter of the 4th instant regarding the shares of stock which you own of the Edison Storage Battery Company received.

On account of my recent fire I am not able to impair my working capital just at present, by buying back the shares.

Yours very truly.

Print

March 13th. 1916.

Condensite Company of America,
Bloomfield, N. J.

Gentlemen:

Replying to your favor of the eighth instant, I beg to say that there are two Benzol Plants at the Cambria Steel Company's works, One of these plants is owned by me and the other by the Cambria Steel Company themselves.

At both plants the crude Naphthaline is being collected, but no sublimer has yet been installed, although I intend to install one for my plant later.

At my Benzol plant at Woodward, Ala. we have put up a sublimer and have been selling a considerable quantity of sublimed Naphthaline to the American Oil & Supply Company of Newark.

Do you care to buy crude Naphthaline on its Naphthaline contents, which are readily sublimable and made pure.

Yours very truly,

Engd

March 13th. 1916.

The Engineering Magazine,
140 Nassau Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 8th instant has been received. In my opinion, the bill introduced by Congressman Tavener is based on a fallacy. It is an attempt to prevent efficiency, and would be disastrous to Labor and to the public.

The worst enemy of all the Workers is an inefficiently managed shop, and yet the Labor leaders cannot comprehend the fact, - possibly because it is based on mental processes of a primary character.

There are many ways whereby Labor leaders can improve conditions by legislation, but this bill of Congressman Tavener is not one of them.

Yours very truly,

7

March 13th. 1916.

Mr. John J. Guenther,
923 S. Sanborn Avenue,
Mitchell, S. Dak.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the 28th ultimo, I beg to say that I expect to continue the manufacture of Carbolic Acid after the close of the war. I think the encouragement of the dye industry by a tariff is essential for preparedness. The manufacturers of dyes in Germany makes all her explosives. For a number of years the public would pay the tariff, but in time a tariff would not be necessary, and the country would not have paid very much money to have ready at all times a great capacity for producing munitions of war, as well as a large corps of trained men.

Yours very truly,

615

March 13th. 1916.

Mr. Walter D'A. Ryan,
% The Blackstone,
Michigan Boulevard,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Ryan:

I received your favor of the fourth instant, and am glad to learn that you liked the phonograph and records. I trust the music will be as great a source of enjoyment to you and your wife as it is to me.

The set of exposition views which you so kindly sent me a few weeks ago came to hand. They are certainly very beautiful and have given us all a great deal of pleasure.

My wife joins me in kind regards to you and Mrs. Ryan.

Yours very truly,

March 13th. 1916.

Mr. E. H. Stickels, President,
Holt-Welles Company, Inc.,
1790 Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Stickels:

I have been so exceedingly busy day and night the last five or six weeks that some of my mail has fallen into arrears. This will explain the delay in acknowledging the receipt of your favor of the second ultimo.

Allow me to thank you for the autographed copy of Mr. Browne's "A Handbook of Carburetion", which you have been kind enough to send me. I am glad to have it to add to my Library.

Yours very truly,

19

March 15th. 1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
c/ Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Sir:

We are having a dispute with J. P. Morgan & Company, to whom we sold the toluol from the Johnstown plant for one year. They want to substantiate our statement that the plant was put in operation February 22nd, 1915. Mr. Mason says this was the date of actual starting up of the plant. You were present and helped to install and start the plant, and if the date above stated is correct, will you please go before a Notary Public and make the affidavit enclosed and return it to me by next mail. Please put a special delivery stamp on it.

Please be sure to have the Notary Public put his seal on the paper.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

March 16th. 1916.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica Corporation,
120 West 32nd Street,
New York City.

Attention of Mr. William Patten.

Dear Mr. Patten:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 13th instant, and in accordance with your instructions we have returned to your Corporation the set of Encyclopaedia Britannica sent to the Laboratory here for photographic purposes.

I shall be glad tohave you acknowledge receipt of same upon its arrival.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Hanna

460

March 16th. 1916.

Mr. H. N. Hanna, President,
The Product Sales Company,
Equitable Building,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 13th instant has been received, and I beg to thank you for your kindness in sending me a copy of your previous letter of February 25th.

Both these letters have been brought to Mr. Edison's attention, and he says he will be glad to see samples of the decomposed Feldspar.

Just at present, he is not in position to decide definitely as to his requirements for Potash spar, as he is carrying on a line of experiment covering his process for extracting Potash. However, we shall keep your letters on file for future reference as he gets further along.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Transit

March 16th. 1916.

Mr. F. H. McCormick,
Williamsport, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the seventh instant to Mr. Edison was received. He has been extremely busy the last few weeks on some special investigations that have taken his entire time and attention. However, he has now had an opportunity of reading your letter and looking over the statements in regard to the history of the Edison plant at Sunbury, Pa.

He wishes me to say that as far as he can remember your statements are correct.

I have not returned the copy of the statement attached to your letter, and if you have no objection I would like to keep it. I am one of the old "boys" and would like to have this to add to my papers.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Elliott

43

March 16th. 1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Attention of Mr. Nomura.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the tenth instant enclosing copy of a letter from the Germania Hosiery Mills was received. I have shown same to Mr. Edison.

He says he does not understand the results stated in the Germania letter. Our Aniline Oil is the same at all times, and has been ever since we commenced to make it. In order to get the black color, the Germania Hosiery Mills must be using some chemical that has changed in its nature.

For the information of the Germania Hosiery Mills, Mr. Edison wishes to call their attention to the fact that if their ventilation is bad or the rooms too warm the Aniline vapor will cause the lips of the workmen to turn blue. All Chemical works making Aniline Oil furnish their men with a change of clothing, so that they never go home in the clothing they wear in the Aniline Oil plant. The men are also compelled to wash their hands thoroughly before eating lunch.

All plants making Aniline Oil have trouble with the poisoning of their men in summer, because the vapor of Aniline comes off the Oil very strong when the temperature is high. Mr. Edison recommends that the dye room be kept as cold as possible and well ventilated.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

March 17th. 1916.

The Bobbs-Merrill Company,

Indianapolis, Ind.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the ninth instant to Mr. Edison, together with the complimentary copy of "Creation of Wealth" have been received and handed to him.

He wishes us to write in acknowledgment and to thank you for your letter and for the copy of the book, which he will take with him to Florida for reading at his leisure.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

March 17, 1916.

The Arthur H. Clark Company,

Caxton Building, Cleveland, Ohio.

Gentlemen:-

Enclosed is check No.17,117, amount $46.50, for which kindly ship to Mr. Thomas A. Edison, Laboratory, West Orange, New Jersey,

Journal of the Chemical Society 1904-1914, inc., 11 years complete, in parts as issued,

as referred to in your letter of March 13th, sending us receipted bill therefor.

Yours very truly,

Assistant Secretary.

RWK

Yes

March 16th. 1916.

E. E. Dickinson & Co. Inc.,
Essex, Conn.

Gentlemen:

Replying to your favor of the 14th instant let me say that Mr. V. L. King is an excellent chemist, but I fear that he might not be able to satisfy you in the designing of a commercial manufacturing plant. I believe he did some designing for the Butterworth-Judson Company, 61 Wall Street, New York City, manufacturers of acid and chemicals. As they have had more experience with him than I have had, you might write to them.

Yours very truly,

Feldspar

March 17th. 1916.

Mr. Hilton J. Doggett,
800 West 112th Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 14th instant in regard to Feldspar has been received. It is quite true that Mr. Edison is interested in Feldspar having a high Potash content. He is expecting to use about two carloads a week of Feldspar that can be guaranteed to contain at least 13.5% Potash, provided, of course, the price is right. He is not, and would not be, interested in securing any property containing Feldspar. He is already the owner of a vast acreage containing Feldspar, but does not care to go into the mining business.

If you have any good Potash Feldspar to offer, we shall be pleased to hear from you with analyses and prices, F. O. B. Orange, N.J.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Insert

March 16th. 1916.

Mr. H. M. Hay,
265 Albany Avenue,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the 11th instant, let me say that I have just completed a hydrogen indicator for the Navy. This device is on test at the present. It is not my intention to charge the Government for it. If my device should fall down in performance you will have a chance, and probably get paid for it.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Encl
196

March 16th. 1916.

Lt. John W. Joyes,
Lt. Col., Ord. Dept., U. S. A.,
Commanding,
Picatinny Arsenal,
Dover, N. J.

S i r:

I must ask you to kindly pardon the delay in replying to your favor of the 28th ultimo. I have been very busy on a special line of investigation, which has held my attention from eighteen to twenty hours a day.

I have also delayed answering your letter for a few days longer in order to find out whether I can obtain the Benzol wherewith to manufacture the additional quantity of Phenol that you mention. As matters stand at the present time, I have only contracted for sufficient Benzol to manufacture the total quantity of Phenol covered by all my contracts, and before obligating myself to deliver further quantities I should want to make sure of having contracted for the necessary raw material.

Present indications of my being able to obtain the necessary supply of Benzol seem quite favorable, and if I am successful in obtaining same I should be willing to contract an additional quantity of Phenol of approximately 20,000 pounds per month for one year from May 1st, 1916 at 70¢ per pound.

I shall be glad to hear from you as to how soon a decision must be arrived at.

Respectfully,

Hurst

596

March. 17th. 1916.

Butterworth-Judson Company,
61 Wall Street,
New York City. Attention of Mr. J. A. Durkin,
Vice President.

Gentlemen:

I must protest most emphatically upon your neglect to ship Mixed Acids in accordance with the contract that I have with you. This contract was the basis of production at my Aniline Plant, and I made my contracts with customers accordingly. I must have the full quantity of Mixed Acids as called for by my contract with you or I shall be unable to deliver my goods and thereby be liable to suits for damages.

You are about 116 tons behind on your January delivery and about the same quantity on February delivery, and so far this month you have only shipped us one car. I have been obliged to provide acid from elsewhere to fill the gap, and now on account of your delay in shipping this month it will cost $125.00 to bring a car of acid from your works to mine so as to get it there in time enough to prevent shutting down the plant, even if my Traffic Department is able to accomplish it by the expenditure of that large sum of money.

I must ask that you immediately make up the arrears of your shipments and send me a number of cars of Mixed Acid this month.

When the arrears are made up, I beg to ask that you will please enter this as a formal request to ship my monthly quota each month commencing April, dividing the monthly quota into three tank car lots, to be shipped respectively on the 6th, 14th, and 26th of each month.

This is a very serious matter, and I want to state it with all the emphasis I can express in writing.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

First
94

March 17th. 1916.

Clarence Dillon, Esq.,
% Wm. A. Read & Company,
Nassau & Cedar Streets,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Dillon:

I am very glad to learn that you have been able to arrange with your people for the continuance of my Benzol contract, on the basis of 1,000 gallons per day for one year after the close of the present contract, at 6? 1/2¢ per gallon, F. O. B. Milwaukee.

I have instructed Mr. Headcroft to telephone to you confirming this purchase by me. He tells me he has telephoned you this afternoon accordingly. Will you kindly send on the contract.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Cant you let me have 500 gals per day extra in May + June,

E

File
94

March 17th. 1916.

Clarence Dillon, Esq.,
c/o Wm. A. Read & Company,
Nassau & Cedar Streets,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Dillon:

I am very glad to learn that you have been able to arrange with your people for the continuance of my benzol contract, on the basis of 1,000 gallons per day for one year after the close of the present contract, at 6[illegible] [illegible]/2¢ per gallon, F. O. B. Milwaukee.

I have instructed Mr. [illegible]ft [illegible] telephone to you confirming this purchase by me. He tells me he has telephoned you this afternoon accordin[illegible]. Will you kindly send me the contract.

Very truly yours,

Thos A Edison

Cant you let me have 500 gals per day extra on May + June

E

41

March 17th. 1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City. Attention of Mr. Shunzo Takaki.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 8th instant enclosing letter of American Oil & Supply Company in regard to shipments of Naphthaline was received.

Unfortunately, as we were new in the Naphthaline business, there were some mistakes made in the first few shipments, and we were obliged to adjust matters by making the allowances as stated in the letter of the American Oil & Supply Company of March 7th.

It was also understood when the sales of Naphthaline were made that the price was F. O. B. Newark, so their charging us back with the freight is correct. The discount of 1% has always been understood in their dealings with us, as they usually discount their bills unless otherwise understood.

You say in your letter that the amount of the Woodward Iron Company's bill is exactly the same as our bill to the American Oil & Supply Company. I do not quite see how that can be, because one half of these shipments of Naphthaline belongs to Woodward Iron Company, and the other half to the joint account of Mitsui & Company, Limited and Thomas A. Edison in joint account. Therefore, although you bill the entire shipment to American Oil & Supply Company, the bill of Woodward Iron Company covers only about one half the amount. The other half belongs to our joint account, although, of course, there is to be charged to our joint account the bill of the Woodward Iron Company for the royalty of 1 1/4¢ per pound we pay to them.

You should, therefore, enter against the Woodward Iron Company's account their proportion of the deductions made by American Oil & Supply Company and deduct the same when you remit the Woodward Iron Company's share to us.

I will write to the Woodward Iron Company and explain to them. I return the letter and check stub of American Oil & Supply Company.

Yours very truly,

H. Miller
SECRETARY.

Enc.

Grant

76

March 18th. 1916.

J. P. Morgan & Company,
Export Department,
23 Wall Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Your letter of the 8th instant has been received. As far as the date upon which we began to operate the plant at Johnstown is concerned, this is a matter which you can readily verify if you desire. The fact is that it was started on February 22, 1915 and has been in active operation ever since, the working force consisting most of the time of a superintendent, about five day operatives and the same number of night operatives; at the beginning the force was somewhat larger than this.

As to your statement that I did not deliver approximately the amount of toluol which I agreed to deliver, I would say that I did not agree to deliver any specified amount. In fact, at all times I refused to agree to anything of the kind. At the time the contract was entered into, the plant was in course of erection and no one could possibly predict in advance how much toluol could be produced from the gases which were to be treated. I simply agreed to sell "the whole of the toluol of 98% purity produced from this plant, for a period of one year after the plant is in operation". I have already delivered to you the greater part of this amount and am awaiting shipping facilities for the remainder, as per my letter of March 4th, 1916. The year in question began February 22, 1915 and ended at midnight February 22, 1916.

I cannot see that the capacity of the plant at the present time has any relevance to the subject, nor is its capacity during the year in question, except as regards the addition referred to in my letter of February 3, 1915. This addition consisted of an additional still for refining benzol and toluol, and it was found possible to purchase and install this as a part of the original installation of the plant, so that instead of beginning to operate the addition to the plant about 40 days after the date approximated for starting the plant, the operation of the addition actually began at the same time as the rest of the plant. The capacity of the plant was at all times sufficient to take care of all the gases which I had contracted for, and in fact all of such gases were treated, and you have had all the 98% toluol produced therefrom during the year in question.

As regards your suggestion that deliveries may be continued, let me say that I have fulfilled my contract fully and completely both

in letter and in spirit and throughout the life of the contract have done even more than I agreed to do by increasing the purity of the product at great expense to myself for which I have not requested any reimbursement and I do not see why I should be expected to extend the life of the contract, which expired February 22, 1916.

In order to prove to you that you have received all of the toluol which has been shipped from my plant at Johnstown, I have written to the Cambria Steel Company asking them for astatement showing the various shipments of toluol which have been made from said plant from the beginning up to the present time, (such a record has been kept by the Cambria Steel Company for the purpose of charging me with a royalty upon all toluol produced, in accordance with my contract with them). I enclose herewith a copy of my letter of March 10, 1916 to the Cambria Steel Company and their reply thereto dated March 13, 1916, from which you will see that the shipments shown in their letter correspond exactly with the shipments of toluol (lots #1 to 8) which have been billed by me to His Britannic Majesty's Government through J. P. Morgan & Company. Lots #9 and 10 are ready and awaiting shipment, but have not been billed out as yet. A word of explanation is necessary in regard to the item of 23 gallons which will be noted in the list contained in the letter from the Cambria Steel Company. Through a clerical error, on the first shipment of toluol, the Cambria Steel Company charged me with a royalty on only 2916 gallons. This error was not noticed until the month of July when they rendered me a separate bill for the royalty on 23 gallons.

I remain,

Yours truly,

Thos A Edison

Enclosures.

Grist

March 17th. 1916.

Mr. A.G.Acosta,
Carmen Street, #60, Altos,
Havana, Cuba.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 29th ultimo has been handed to me. Let me say in reply that we do not record singers because they may be celebrated, but only those who have fine voices.

However, when Madame Amelia Galli-Curci reaches New York, we shall be glad to make a trial record of her voice, and if it is satisfactory, we will take up with you the matter of a business proposition.

When Madame Galli-Curci comes to New York, please ask her to communicate with Mr. W. H. Miller, the Manager of our Recording Studio at 79 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and he will make arrangements with her for the trial record.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Faist

March 17th. 1916.

Mr. Frank P. Holland,
Holland's Magazine,
Dallas, Texas.

Dear Sir:

I have received an appeal from Mr. C. F. Lehmann for a contribution towards a home for superanuated writers of the press and periodicals.

Enclosed herewith I take pleasure in sending my check for $50.00 for this fund. I would give more, but my big fire, while it didn't break me, bent me considerably.

Yours very truly,

Enclosure.

Hunt

March 18th. 1916.

Mr. John F. Kehoe,
% Gasparilla Inn,
Boca Grande, Fla.

Dear Mr. Kehoe:

I am very glad to receive your letter and thank you for the invitation to come over and see you. I shall try to visit Boca Grande while I am down in Florida.

I would like to have you come over to Fort Myers and see me while I am down there. We will try and make it pleasant for you.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Trust

March 17th. 1916

The Manchester Edison Society,
11, The Avenue,
Lower Broughton,
Manchester, England.

Gentlemen:

I regret the long delay that has taken place in replying to your esteemed favor of November 1st, 1915. I have been exceedingly busy for the last few months on a line of special investigation to which I have been obliged to devote my entire time and attention day and night, and, therefore, have been obliged to lay aside many matters that were not immediately pressing.

Allow me to thank you for the record you kindly sent me, and to which I have listened with much gratification.

It gives me pleasure to comply with your request to become a Patron of your Society, and you have my permission to use my name as such. Allow me to wish your Society and all its members a most prosperous career.

You will be glad to learn that it will not be very long before your members will be able to obtain records of some very fine music, as I have been working hard to improve our methods of recording.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Fund

March 17th. 1916.

Mr. P. E. Tolman,
5 Arctic Street,
Worcester, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your favor of the 13th instant, let me say that Mr. E. G. Acheson, the discoverer of carborundum was at one time in my employ as an experimenter. He made a lot of fusions by electricity in the course of his work. He afterward left me and continue these experiments on his own account. I think that it was about two or three years after this that he discovered carborundum. He was experimenting to make diamonds. His actions, so far as I am concerned were honorable.

Yours very truly,

71
95

March 21st. 1916.

Clarence Dillon, Esq.,
c/o Wm. A. Read & Company,
Nassau & Cedar Streets,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Dillon:

Your favor of the 20th instant addressed to Mr. Edison was received this morning and shown to him just before he left for Florida. He was very glad indeed to have it come along today, as his mind is now relieved on that subject.

He authorized me to confirm the purchase of Benzol as stated in your letter, namely, from the Milwaukee Coke and Gas Company 500 gallons per day from May 15th to June 30th, 1916 at 70¢ per gallon, F. O. B. Milwaukee, Wis; also any Benzol that the Milwaukee Coke and Gas Company can spare from May 1st to May 15th, up to 500 gallons a day; also from the Newport Hydro-Carbon Company of Milwaukee, 600 gallons per day from July 1st, 1916 to July 1st, 1917 at 65¢ per gallon, F. O. B. Canal Dover; all which Benzol to be the same specifications as the Benzol which we have bought from the Milwaukee Coke and Gas Company.

When the contracts are ready, please send them to me, and I will forward them to Florida for Mr. Edison's signature.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

94
387

March 21st. 1916.

Clarence Dillon, Esq.,
% Wm. A. Read & Company,
Nassau & Cedar Streets,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Dillon:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 20th instant, enclosing contracts in duplicate between Northwestern Iron Company and the Milwaukee Coke and Gas Company and Mr. Edison for a continuation of the supply of Benzol for Mr. Edison for an additional twelve months.

I am glad they came so promptly, as they were just in time for Mr. Edison to sign them before leaving for Florida. You will find enclosed one copy of each of these contracts, duly signed by Mr. Edison.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosures.

Merck

272

March 21st. 1916.

Merck & Company,
45 Park Place,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

We must ask you to kindly pardon the delay in replying to your favor of the 21st ultimo regarding Paraphenylenediamine. Mr. Edison has been very busy indeed the last six or seven weeks, and we have been obliged to hold back matters that we not of the most pressing importance.

He wishes us to say that we could, of course, refine our Paraphenylenediamine to conform to the sample that you sent us, but it would scarcely pay us to do so, as we are contracted up to about the limit of our production, which is used by fur dyers, who seem to find our product satisfactory for their purpose.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

105

154

March 21st. 1916.

Mr. Arthur Williams, President,
The American Museum of Safety,
18 West 24th Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am surely in sympathy with the work of the Museum of Safety.

Anything that will prevent accident means not only protection to a man and his family, but to the firm that employs him and to the state and the nation. If a man is a skilled mechanic, to injure his effectiveness or to entirely remove him frequently means the upsetting of an entire establishment, or at least a lack of harmonious work, in addition to the loss to the community.

If the City of New York or any other City can encourage a Museum of Safety in any way, it surely would be a great advancement for our community.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Finest

March 22nd. 1916.

Mr. W. H. Brown,
137 N. Hope Street,
Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Your recent letters and records came to hand, and have been brought to Mr. Edison's attention. He requests us to say that he has listened to the violin records, as to which he says that the recording apparatus you have is not made to do what we call "good" work, but from the records as they are the violin seems to have great volume and a fine tone.

Before long we expect to issue some very fine violin records made with improved recording apparatus, and we shall then be in position to make records by all the best artists.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

HWW

Draft

590

March 22nd. 1916.

Mr. E. G.Liebold,
Secretary to HENRY FORD,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Mr. Liebold:

I have received your favor of the 20th instant. Mr. Edison left for Florida yesterday, the 21st instant, and I know that he is very desirous of having Mr. Ford go down to Fort Myers and pay him a visit. I am sorry to note from your letter that there is a shade of doubt about it, but hope that Mr. Ford will make an effort to go down and see them.

Yours very truly,

8

March 22nd. 1916.

Lenz & Naumann, Inc.,
17 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

We are in receipt of your favor of the 21st instant, quoting $6.00 each on the special thermometers. I would say in reply that a competitor has beaten you out. He was here about half an hour ahead of your representative last Saturday morning, and had two samples ready for Mr. Edison by half past eleven Monday morning, and received an order some of these thermometers, 12 of which were delivered today. His price was also considerably lower than yours.

I am afraid you will have to speed up a little next time.

Yours very truly,

W. H. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

March 22nd. 1916.

Mr. Jacques Reich,
New Dorp, Staten Island,
New York.

Dear Mr. Reich:

I am afraid you will think I am rather neglectful, but as a matter of fact, such is not the case. When I talked with Mrs. Edison about the etchings you proposed to make, and asked her for her selection of a photograph, she thought that it should be a composite of several, most of which are in her possession. I asked her to allow me to make copies of them, and indeed sent a photographer up to the house for that purpose, but she did not wish to have any copies in existence.

It would seem from this that we will be unable to obtain the pictures from Mrs. Edison. Ido not know what further I can do, having already sent you a copy of what we consider the standard photograph. I presume you still have this. All I can do in addition is to suggest the fact that Underwood & Underwood, Pach Brothers and Falk, the Photographer have made photographs of Mr. Edison. There is also one that is considered very good which was made especially for the New York Edison Company and on which they own the copyright. You have probably seen it. The pose is a standing one with his hands in his pockets, and he has a smile on his face.

Yours very truly,

March 22nd. 1916.

Mlle. Alice Verlet,
637 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Madame:

I have just received your esteemed favor of yesterday's date, and, of course, I am very glad to act in conveying your wish to Mr. Edison, who at this moment is on his way to Florida.

It rather distresses me to throw a little cloud on your anticipations, but I feel it would only be kindness to you to prepare you for a possible disappointment. The business and social relations between Mr. Edison and Mr. Ford are of a very delicate nature, and both gentlemen are exceedingly punctilious in avoiding the slightest encroachment in each others business affairs.

We have bought quite a considerable number of Ford cars for our business purposes here, but we have always paid exactly the same price as if we were all absolute strangers to Mr. Ford or his Company. Neither Mr. Edison nor any of our employees have everreceived one cent of discount from the Ford Company, and we have probably bought fully fifty cars. On the other hand, Mr. Ford's people receive no discount whatever on phonographs and records which they purchase from us.

I must also mention another phase of the relations between Mr. Edison and Mr. Ford, and that is, although they are frequently asked by personal friends for letters of introduction, both gentlemen preserve a strict neutrality in regard to each others business affairs, and never give these letters of introduction.

It is with a good deal of regret and hesitation that I write this letter, but I feel it is my duty, in all friendliness to let you know the facts, and thus to prepare you for a possibility. However, this will not detract in the least from my friendly advocacy of your request to Mr. Edison, and, therefore, I would suggest that you should not take this letter as a decision.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

106

244

March 22nd. 1916.

Mr. Arthur Williams,
c/o New York Edison Company,
Irving Place and Fifteenth St.,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Williams:

Your favor of the 16th instant to Mr. Edison was received, and the night photograph came to hand also, but the latter arrived only yesterday, a few hours before he left for Florida.

He was very much interested in the photograph, and liked it very much. Indeed, he has asked me to have it framed and hung in the Library here.

He asked me to write you a letter of thanks and appreciation, and this note is intended to carry out his wishes.

Yours very truly,

TAM

First

March 24th. 1916.

Mr. Theodore Weicher, Vice President,
E. R. Squibb & Sons,
78 Beekman Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Weicher:

Referring to our recent correspondence about discoloration of Phenol, all we can say is that we are inclined to believe that the discoloration referred to was due to small fractions of impurities which remained in the Phenol and which were so small as not to be measurable.

You will be glad to learn, however, that Mr. Edison has reached a still higher degree of purity, by means of a special, careful method of purification. We have sent you four sample bottles of cans Nos. 359, 360 361 and 362. These samples represent this latest method of purification, and we intend to supply this grade of pure Phenol from now on, and expect that discoloration will take place no more.

We would like to know what you think of these latest samples.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

W. Hilborowski
Asst. to Mr. Edison.

91
182

March 27th. 1916.

Mr. R. H. Banister, Vice President,
Woodward Iron Company,
Woodward, Ala.

Dear Mr. Banister:

Before Mr. Edison left for Florida he sold another carload of Nephthaline Flakes from the Woodward Plant for April delivery at 11 1/4¢ per pound. This would call for one car about April 10th and the second car about April 25th.

Our customer also wanted us to contract for a second carload for May delivery, but Mr. Edison said that he did not know whether he would be able to make it fast enough when the weather gets warm in the month of May. He agreed, however, that if we find we can produce a sufficient quantity that month to make up the two carloads he will let our customer have the second carload at the same price as the other May car, namely, 11 3/4¢ per pound.

It is understood that a carload means 18 tons (36,000 pounds) of the raw material, all to be packed in barrels. The price is F.O.B. Newark, N. J., subject to 1% discount for cash.

We are protected against delays from causes beyond our control. Trusting this will be satisfactory, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Wm Hallewell

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Print

600

March 27th. 1916.

Dr. William Knecht,
Rue du Righi 47,
Zurich, Switzerland.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 7th instant, which has been forwarded to Mr. Edison's Laboratory.

Mr. Edison has had no vacation for about two years, and last week he went down to his place in Florida, where he will remain for four or five weeks.

I am forwarding your letter to him today, and as soon as I hear from him in regard thereto I shall be very glad to communicate with you further.

Yours very truly,

Wm H Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

176

266

March 27th. 1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
[illegible] Madison Avenue,
New York City. Attention of Mr. Shunzo Takaki

Dear Sir:

Confirming our telephone conversation this morning, let me once more offer my apology for having neglected to notify you of the following sales of sublimed Naphthaline from the Woodward Plant to American Oil & Supply Company.

1	carload	to	be	shipped	February 9th	-	9 1/2¢
1	"	"	"	"	" 24th	-	10¢
1	"	"	"	"	March 10th	-	11¢
1	"	"	"	"	" 25th	-	11¢
1	"	"	"	"	April 10th	-	11 1/4¢
1	"	"	"	"	" 25th	-	11 1/4¢
1	"	"	"	"	May delivery	-	11 3/4¢

The American Oil & Supply Company asked us if we would contract for a second carload inthe month of May, but as we do not know whether we shall be able to make it fast enough when the weather gets warm in the month of May, Mr. Edison did not want to make a firm contract for a second carload in that month. He stated, however, that if we find we can produce sufficient in May to make up a second carload we will supply it to the American Oil & Supply Company at the same price as the other carload, namely, 11 3/4¢ per pound.

It is understood that a carload means 18 tons (36,000 pounds) of the net material, and all to be packed in barrels, price to be F. O. B. Newark, N. J., subject to the usual 1% discount for cash.

The contract was made subject to delays from causes beyond our control.

Trusting this will be satisfactory, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Wm Hallerdaumsoff

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

157

222

March 27th. 1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Will you please ship by express tomorrow, prepaid, one gallon of pure Toluol to Eastern Laboratory, Du-Pont Powder Company, Chester, Pa. Please mark the package as coming from Thomas A. Edison, Orange, N. J.

Please be sure that this is equal to the best Toluol that we have been shipping to Lunham & Moore.

We have arranged to supply the Hercules Powder Company (which belongs to the Du Pont Powder Company) with about 5,180 gallons of pure Toluol early in April, for which they will send a tank car. Please do not put any Toluol into the tank car, however, until you receive definite authority from me as to the exact quantity. I will instruct you about this later.

Be sure to get the sample gallon off by express tomorrow.

Yours very truly,

W. H. Lieamowich

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

61

514

March 28th. 1916.

Lt. John W. Joyes,
Lt. Col., Ord. Dept., U. S. A.,
Commanding,
Picatinny Arsenal,
Dover, N. J.

SUBJECT: Phenol Method of Packing.

S i r:

Your favor of the 20th instant to Mr. Edison was received. He is away in Florida on a few weeks vacation.

In the meantime, I can reply for him as I am familiar with these matters. In regard to the wooden plugs, our plant reports that they have taken the danger of loss into consideration, and that they can safely ship the cans by leaving a slot in the top of the crating where the plug is, and then cover that slot from above by a piece of sheet tin which they will nail on the crating. This would seem to be in line with your suggestion.

You will be glad to learn that you need not return the galvanized iron drums to us any more. You may, therefore, put them in the scrap heap.

The reason that we have made all shipments of Phenol in new galvanized iron drums is because Mr. Edison was anxious to have the material reach you with the least possible danger of contamination. If the ordinary steel drums with screw plug were used, they would in time become more or less rusty inside. Mr. Edison was, therefore, willing to go to the extra expense of furnishing a new package for each shipment.

Respectfully yours,

W. Gilliland

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Swift

March 27th. 1916.

C. J. Tagliabue Mfg. Company,
18 Thirty-third Street,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 23rd instant has been received. Let me say in reply thereto that Mr. Edison could not wait the length of time that you required to make up the sample special thermometer.

We called up another concern on the telephone on receipt of your telegram. Their representative came over within two hours. Mr. Edison told him what was desired, and he went back to his place and made up a special thermometer which was of the description given to you. This sample was furnished to Mr. Edison in less than 48 hours and found so satisfactory that Mr. Edison gave an order for a sample dozen before placing the larger order. These twelve thermometers were ready in three days after the order was given and are now in use.

Mr. Edison is rather puzzled to know why your Company could not have done as well.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

109
224

March 29th. 1916

American Oil & Supply Co.,
52 Lafayette Street,
Newark, N. J.

Attention of Mr. Jones.

Gentlemen:

Please excuse the delay in replying to your favor of the 22nd instant. I have been exceedingly busy the last few days with the multitude of things that have cropped up since Mr. Edison went away.

Now in regard to the complaint of the Bayway Chemical Company about the presence of water in the Solvent Naphtha which we have been shipping them, I can only express my regret that such has been the case.

Naturally, Mr. Edison wishes to supply only first-class material, and, therefore, I will ask you to notify us when the Bayway Chemical Company sends you a charge for the water, and we will issue a credit to you.

Immediately on receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, I notified our Johnstown Plant by wire to be very careful to eliminate water from the Solvent Naphtha, and I trust there will be no further trouble on this score.

The letter of the Bayway Chemical Company addressed to you is returned herewith.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

223

223

March 29th. 1916.

American Oil & Supply Company,
52 Lafayette Street,
Newark, N.J. Attention of Mr. Burnett.

Gentlemen:

Referring to your favor of the 20th instant in regard to the barrel trouble which arose concerning the very first car of Naphthaline that we shipped to you from Woodward, Ala. I will try and talk this matter over with Mr. Hoffman when he calls in tomorrow.

I have submitted the whole proposition to our Mr. Mason, and he says that he does not know of any such thing as a standard Naphthaline barrel. If there is such an article we would like to have a sample. If not, could you obtain for us specifications giving size, type, number of hopps, thickness of staves, etc., etc.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

66
235

March 29th. 1916.

Mr. C. H. Opdyke,
% Woodward Iron Company,
Woodward, Ala.

Dear Mr. Opdyke:

I enclose herewith copy of a letter from the American Oil & Supply Company in regard to the first April shipment of Naphthaline Flakes from Woodward. As you are already aware, we sold our Naphthaline Flakes to them.

You will note that the shipping instructions are quite intricate, and I would ask you to kindly study them over very carefully indeed, and to comply with them to the minutest detail.

If there is anything that you do not understand, or upon which you require fuller instructions, please notify me long enough in advance before you make the shipment.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

269

604

March 31, 1916.

Messrs. Owens & Phillips,
#93 Nassau St.,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Referring to your letter of March 17th, acknowledging receipt of our telephone instructions to affix $15,000.00 insurance on stock, including packages on premises of Edison Benzol Plant, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, we are sending you herewith at your request 2 blueprints showing location of our Building and Tanks. The Building is constructed of steel and corrugated iron.

If these do not meet your requirements, kindly advise us promptly, and we will endeavor to meet them.

Kindly send us policy as soon as same has come through.

Yours very truly,

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

RWK/MH

150

April 3rd. 1916

Takamine Laboratory, Inc.,
Equitable Building,
New York City.

Attention of Mr. Eben Takamine.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 24th ultimo in reference to Acetanilid was received in due time and submitted to Mr. Edison, who is at present in Florida.

He has requested me to say to you that we cannot afford to make a lower price than originally quoted on Acetanilid, as we can use all that we produce to make a higher priced chemical, and our supply of Acetic Acid on contract is limited.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

April 3rd, 1916.

Mr. John A. Bush,
Colesburg, Iowa.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 21st ultimo to Mr. Edison was received and sent down to him in Florida, where he has gone for a few weeks.

I have just received a note from him about your complaint, and he wishes me to say that we have had considerable trouble in making discs that do not crack now and then, but we have located the source of the trouble and will overcome it.

In the meantime, you can take your cracked records to Harger & Blish and they will exchange them for new ones without charge. I have written them to take back your cracked records and to return them to me. I will replace them by sending new ones to Harger & Blish.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

April 5th. 1916.

Samuel Insull, Esq.,
Edison Building,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Insull:

I have received your favor of the 1st instant, enclosing a letter from Miss Dora Gibson, in regard to a trial record which she would like to have made by our Recording Department.

It will give me great pleasure to put this matter en train, and shall write to Miss Gibson and to Walter Miller at our Recording Department today.

Yours very truly,

359

362

April 7th. 1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
% Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Sir:

I have received a letter advising me that the E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Company, will send an 8,000 gallon tank car to the Plant within the next five or six days. This car is intended to receive the 5,180 gallons of Toluol in regard to which I wrote you a few days ago.

The car is to receive 5,180 gallons of pure Toluol from us, and about 3,000 gallons of Toluol from the Cambria Steel Company's Plant. If the car comes to you first, will you please fill in the 5,180 gallons of pure Toluol, and then advise Mr. Slick, in accordance with a letter I have written to him today, carbon copy of which is attached.

When you have loaded the 5,180 gallons of Toluol into this car please send a formal notification to the Cambria Steel Company so that they can render the usual bill to Mr. Edison. Please be careful on this point, so that there will be no slip-up in their making the charge against Mr. Edison for this 5,180 gallons.

We have not received any shipping instructions in regard to this car of Toluol, after it has been filled, but I will try to obtain such instructions at once. Possibly the Cambria Steel Company will attend to the shipment of the car, as the present programme is to load your 5,180 gallons first, and then turn the car over to the Cambria Steel Company.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

April 7th. 1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City. Attention of Mr. Takaki.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the fifth instant has been received, and in accordance therewith I have instructed our Johnstown Plant to load into the DuPont car 5,180 gallons of Toluol. I have also written to the Cambria Steel Company stating that we understand that they will put about 3,000 gallons of Toluol more into this car, under contract with DuPont.

I trust that everything will come out satisfactorily.

It just occurs to me that we have not yet settled entirely about the billing of this 5,180 gallons of Toluol, except as to the price, which was to be $2.18 per gallon to Mr. Edison. In a telephone conversation which I had with you recently you spoke of our billing it to the Hercules Powder Company, but I suggested to you that we had no order from them for it, and if this 5,180 gallons is to go on account of your contract, our object of helping you out to this extent on your contract would be defeated. My recollection is that you were going to talk to Mr. Mingle about this.

By-the-way, you have not said anything as to shipping instructions for returning the car to the DuPont people. Of course, if we put in our 5,180 gallons first, and then turn the car over to the Cambria Steel Company, I suppose the shipping instructions should be given to them. Will you kindly take this matter into consideration.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

302

440

April 8th. 1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
% Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Referring to my letter of yesterday as to loading 5,180 gallons of Pure Toluol in a tank car which will be sent to you, I have received word this morning that this tank car has been shipped from Youngstown to Cambria Steel Company, Johnstown, Pa. This tank car is PTX 2115. I judge from this that the car will go to the Cambria Steel Company direct, and I have written Mr. Slick this morning informing him of the fact.

Will you please be very particular in giving full attention to the details as comprised in my letter of yesterday and the present letter.

1. If you receive the car first, please load into it 5,180 gallons of Pure Toluol.

2. Then turn it over to the Cambria Steel Company, and they will load into it 3,000 gallons of Pure Toluol.

3. Give formal notification to Cambria Steel Company, so they can send Mr. Edison their bill for the 5,180 gallons.

4. When you have loaded our 5,180 gallons in the car, please notify me by telegraph at once, and advise me whether you have turned over the car to Cambria Steel Company or whether they have already loaded their 3,000 gallons in.

5. I have not yet received instructions for forwarding the car when it is filled, but will advise you about that later.

6. I have written to Mr. Slick this morning, giving him the number and initials of the car.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

95

470

April 8th. 1916.

Mr. Clarence Dillon,
% Wm. A. Read & Co.,
Nassau & Cedar Streets,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Dillon:

Herewith I beg to hand you original and duplicate of the agreement between Newport Hydro Carbon Company and Mr. Edison covering 600 gallons of Benzol per day from July 1st, 1916 to June 30th, 1917. These have been signed by Mr. Edison.

You will notice under the head of quantity that I have inserted, at Mr. Edison's request, the following limiting words: "but in any event not exceeding seven (700) gallons per day". Mr. Edison desired this to be inserted, as the contract calls for him to take the entire production of the plant. Will you kindly ask your people to initial the interlineation, as I have done, and return one copy of this contract to me when it is signed.

As to the other contract, I shall have to ask your indulgence for a few days on account of a curious error made by Mr. Edison and myself.

You will remember that this was for 500 gallons a day from May 15th to June 30th, 1916. On receiving the contract, Mr. Edison overlooked for the moment the fact that he had previously executed the renewal contracts with the Milwaukee Coke & Gas Company and the Northwestern Iron Company, and had an impression that this was a renewal of 500 gallons for a year. He, therefore, thought that June 30th, 1916 should be June 30th, 1917, and in a memorandum which he sent up to me with the contracts requested me to change the date accordingly. If I had stopped a moment to think I should have seen that the date as you had it was correct, but I did not stop to think and made the change to 1917 and noted it at the end of the contract.

A few minutes afterward I happened to think that I made a mistake, and as I did not want to make an entire botch of the contract, I had it re-copied and sent down to him for signature. I shall, therefore, forward this to you in a few days.

Yours very truly,

Enclosures. Assistant to Mr. Edison.

April 10th. 1916.

Kaye & Einstein,
38 West 32nd Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

I thought you would perhaps like to have a line from me to let you know how greatly pleased I am with the fur lined coat, as to which the fur part was furnished by you. It is surely very handsome and confortable. You will be glad also to learn that Mr. Edison also liked the one which you made for him.

Yours very truly,

Mina Edison

Granit

April 11th. 1916.

Mr. W. C. Lytle,
% Hotel Rochester,
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the second instant was received and sent down to Mr. Edison, who is spending a few weeks in Florida.

He wishes us to say in reply that your idea would not be practicable. The gases which are used attack the metals if the slightest trace of air gets in, which would be the case with oil pipe lines and they would be destroyed. The liquids which expand to gas are put into closed steel cylinders under a pressure of 2,000 pounds per square inch.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

377

476

April 18th. 1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
% Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Herewith I hand you a copy of a letter I have written this morning to Mr. Slick. It will explain itself.

I am trying everything in my power to move Lunham & Moore consignment. I have brought to bear all the pressure that I know of in three or four directions, but so far cannot get permission from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to their Agent at Johnstown to receive the stuff. I realize what you are up against, and am trying my utmost to get the stuff away. If we cannot do any better, we shall have to provide another storage tank. Of course, it will relieve you to some extent when you load the 5180 gallons in the tank car.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

April 12th. 1916.

Mr. Louis Lazard,
92 William Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Lazard:

In regard to the gross weight of the 2,000 pounds of Paraphenylenediamine, I called up the factory. They tell me that there was about a hundred and forty pounds of other material sent at the same time, and the only gross weight they can find is about 2500 pounds. I should, therefore, be inclined to think that the 2,000 pounds of Paraphenylenediamine alone would be about 2300.

Yours very truly,

W. Hillemann

April 13th. 1916.

Mr. Harry M. Denton,
347 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 12th instant to Mr. Edison has been received. He is in Florida, where he has gone to spend several weeks. This will explain why you did not receive an answer from him personally.

I have been associated with Mr. Edison a great many years, and happen to know that he never speaks positively about electricity for medical treatment. We frequently have inquiries such as you have made, but Mr. Edison invariably replies to the above effect, stating at the same time that he has not personally made a study in this direction and cannot speak with any certainty whatever.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

365

April 13th. 1916.

Mr. P. J. Kruesi,
% American Lava Company,
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Dear Mr. Kruesi:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 10th instant, and in reply would say that I am quite sure Mr. Edison would not break his journey at Chattanooga. However, you need no accept my opinion as final on that subject. If you would like to send me a letter addressed to Mr. Edison, putting the matter plainly before him, I shall take great pleasure in sending it down to him in Florida.

I realize the difficulties, as we are trying to persuade him to stop over in Philadelphia for two or three hours on a matter of exceedingly great business importance, and at this moment we have our doubts as to whether he will consent to do it, as we know that he will be very anxious to get back to the Laboratory at the earliest possible moment when his vacation ends.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

W. H. Meadowcroft

Trust

April 15th.

Miss Frances Patterson,
1091 Drexel Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Miss Patterson:

Your favor of the 11th instant takes me back to last Summer when we were corresponding about Carbolic Acid. I am glad to hear from you again, but am sorry that I cannot take the Aniline Oil drums off your hands.

Mr. Edison is very particular to use only our own drums for our Aniline Oil. We have had a great many offers of other drums at very reasonable prices, but he has always declined to buy.

I am sorry that we cannot accommodate you.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

April 14th. 1916.

Mr. Charles G. Willoughby,
Broadway and Eleventh St.,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 12th instant has been received, and in reply we beg to say that we are preparing to manufacture Para Amido Phenol in quantity, but at this time we are only in the Laboratory stage of production. The grade we have produced so far is the commercial, but undoubtedly you will require the refine for photographic purposes. We have instructed our chemist to take up work on the refined, and we shall hope to send you a sample before long.

We are not making Metol, and Mr. Edison is just now in Florida, We do not know whether or not we will go into the manufacture of Metol when he returns.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

282

572

April 17th. 1916.

Eastman Kodak Company,
Rochester, N.Y.

Attention of Mr. C. W. Markus.

Gentlemen:

Mr. Edison is contemplating the possibility of putting in a special plant to manufacture Para Amido Phenol. He is in Florida, but will probably be back within the next two weeks. Before he went away he started one of our chemists on a little experimental plant, and the work has been going on during his absence, and we are producing a very small quantity in the Laboratory.

Para Amido Phenol is used for some other purposes besides photographic purposes. Photographic requirements would demand a purer product than the other purposes above mentioned, the latter product being known as "commercial".

I am writing to you in advance of Mr. Edison's return to let you know about this and to find out whether you would be interested in the product if he decides to put in a plant. I have not approached any other concern about the use of this material for photographic purposes, as our dealings with your concern have been so extensive for some years past that I am sure Mr. Edison would prefer to have me take up the matter with you first. The product above named will, of course, be quite expensive, on account of war conditions. We have not produced any of the refined Para Amido Phenol, but have produced some of the commercial, and even with this we have developed both plates and prints very satisfactorily.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

471

497

April 17th. 1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City. Attention of Mr. Takaki.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 14th instant in regard to galvanized iron drums for the shipment of Phenol. Your statement as to the total shipped to us and the total number used is quite right. There are still unused, 56 drums, of which 28 are now filled and ready for shipment to Japan, as I have notified Mr. Nomura this afternoon.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

April 18th. 1916.

Berlin Mills Company,
Portland, Me. Attention of Mr. Marriner.

Dear Mr. Marriner:

I am going to take the liberty of asking you for some information. At one of our Carbolic Acid Plants we are producing Sulphite of Soda as a by-product. I understand that this chemical is used to a large extent by paper manufacturers, but I have been told that they make their own supply, generally speaking. Mr. Edison is away in Florida, and I am trying to line up the sale of our by-products during his absence.

I am sending you by parcel post a sample of our product, and should be glad to have any information which you care to afford me.

The Maine fever is getting into my blood now that the grass is beginning to appear, and I find myself looking forward to our annual visit to the Cape.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

April 18th. 1916.

Mr. Eben W. King,
East Chatham, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the third instant was received and sent down to Mr. Edison who is at present in Florida. He has returned the letter with a memorandum requesting me to write to you and state that he advises you to read up on Scotch shale. They distill enormous quantities from it in Scotland.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

April 18th. 1916.

Mr. Frederick Kincaid,
Skowhegan, Me.

Dear Sir:

Your card to Mr. Edison was received and submitted to him. He is rather surprised that you should characterize Farrar as a great singer. That she is a great artist is true, but she is rather a poor singer. We cannot put dramatic action on the phonograph, and, therefore, can use only artists with good voices. Some of our competitors will put upon their records any singer who has a reputation, no matter whether the artist has a voice or not. We will not do so.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

April 17th. 1916.

Dr. Abram T. Kerr,
Cornell University Medical College,
Ithaca, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the 12th instant, we beg to say that we can supply you with fifty to one hundred pounds of Carbolic Acid at $1.00 per pound. We pack this in galvanized iron drums, and crate the same if sending by freight or express.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

477

564

April 18th. 1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
c/o Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Sir:

I have received the memorandum you sent me yesterday as to the total shipments from the plant, and thank you very much for your prompt attention. This is just what I want.

Please do not forget that we want to get another car of pure Benzol shipped by you as soon as you can let us have it. We are using a tremendous quantity.

Yours very truly,

W. Lloyd Wood,
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

517

April 10th. 1915.

Keith Car Company,
Peoples Gas Building,
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

I have received your favor of the sixth instant, and I can only say in reply that all through our transactions it has been a pleasure to deal with you because you have been prompt and fair, and have given us good service.

I also appreciate very much the fact that you have dealt with me on such a liberal basis in renewing the leases of the cars which I am renting from you. You may rest assured that your good treatment will not be forgotten, and I shall naturally turn to you in whatever future business I have in your line.

Yours very truly,

Test

594

April 20th. 1916.

St. Regis Paper Company,

Watertown, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

At one of our Chemical Plants we are producing Sulphite of Soda in two grades, Anhydrous and hydrated, and we understand that this is used in paper making. If you are interested we shall be glad to send you samples and quote prices.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

April 21st. 1916.

Frazar & Company,
50 Church Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 15th instant has been received. We would say in reply that we are not making any dyes at all. We make the following chemicals: Carbolic Acid, Aniline Oil, Aniline Salt, Acetanilid, Acetate of Soda, and Paraphenylenediamine. Inasmuch, as we are already contracted up to practically the limits of our production, we do not see that it would avail us anything to send you samples and quote prices.

We might say for your information that we have already had a considerable amount of Japanese business from our friends Mitsui & Company, Ltd.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

487

635

April 22nd. 1916.

Eastman Kodak Company,
Rochester, N.Y. Attention of Mr. C. W. Markus.

Gentlemen:

We received your telegram of the 20th instant, and are mailing today a sample two ounce bottle of our Commercial Para Amido Phenol, which you can try experimentally.

Just at this time I cannot give you either the probable price or the estimated output and delivery date. Before he went away, Mr. Edison started one of our Chemists on a job of producing a small quantity of this material every day in the Laboratory, so that he would be able to decide on his return how much of a plant would be necessary, when it could be put up, and what the cost would be. On this data he expected to decide whether or not he would put up a commercial plant.

He leaves Florida tomorrow for home and we expect that he will be here at the Laboratory on Wednesday next. I shall take the matter up with him on his return, and will advise you further.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

April 24th. 1916.

Hon. Josephus Daniels,
Secretary of the Navy,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:

Your favor of the 20th instant to Mr. Edison, together with the two items of printed matter which you have sent him, have been received.

He is en route from Florida, and I expect him at the office on Wednesday morning, when the above will be handed to him.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

134

April 24th, 1916.

Mr. E. G. Liebold, Secretary & Treasurer,
Henry Ford Hospital,
Detroit, Mich.

My dear Mr. Liebold:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 22nd instant in regard to Carbolic Acid, and I am glad to say that your letter reached the right person, as I have worked with Mr. Edison on the Carbolic Acid business since we started making it.

While we are contracted pretty closely to our production, we could certainly take care of your requirements, as they are very moderate. I am going to send to you a sample of the Carbolic Acid which we produce, and which is used for pharmaceutical purposes.

If this quality is suitable for your use at the Hospital, we can supply your requirements as stated at 77 1/2¢ per pound, which is the price we are getting for the pharmaceutical grade.

We have several sizes of packages for shipment, namely, 25 pounds, 50 pounds, 100 pounds and 250 pounds. The containers are galvanized sheet iron, and a new container is used for every shipment.

Trusting that all of the above will be of interest to you, I remain,

Yours very truly,

5554

April 24th. 1916.

St. Regis Paper Company,
Watertown, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 21st instant, and to thank you for your prompt attention to our inquiry.

You say you do not use Sulphite of Soda in the grades of paper that you manufacture. This would imply that it is used in some grades, and we wonder whether we can trespass on your kindness to ask if you would kindly post us as to what grades of paper Sulphite of Soda is used in the process of manufacture. We are trying to find an outlet for our production.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

COO

183

April 25th. 1916.

Dr. William Knecht,
Rue du Righi 47,
Zurich, Switzerland.

Dear Sir:

Since writing to you on the 1st instant, I have received another memorandum from Mr. Edison in which he says that he would be willing to pay for a cheaper process than he is now using to make Para Amido Phenol, both commercial and refined.

At the present time he makes Para Amido Phenol by nitrating phenol and reducing the resultant para nitro phenol with iron and HCl.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

April 25th. 1916.

McGraw-Hill Book Company,
239 West 39th Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Your circular letter was received. Mr. Edison wishes to have a copy of Mr. Frederick C. Wagner's book "Coal and Coke". Will you kindly send copy of this book addressed to me, with bill made out against Thomas A. Edison and oblige,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

April 26th. 1916.

Mr. F. D. Fagan,
% General Electric Company,
Rialto Building,
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Mr. Fagan:

It gives me grat pleasure to send to you by direction of Mr. Edison a silver plate suitably inscribed, to be attached to the phonograph which Mr. Edison presented to you at the time of the San Francisco Exposition. This is being forwarded by registered mail, and I shall be very glad if you will kindly have the kindness to acknowledge the receipt.

Yours very truly,

Quick

649

April 27th. 1916.

Mr. Louis Lazard,
92 William Street,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Lazard:

I am afraid you must have misunderstood me as we have never had any intention of manufacturing Hydroquinone. Possibly I told you that we were large users of it, and I may not have made my statement clear enough. We purchase our Hydroquinone from the General Chemical Company, who, so far as I know are the only manufacturers.

I have a letter from K. F. Griffiths & Company, 81 Fulton Street, New York City on some other matters, and I notice on their letter-head, that they mention Hydroquinone. Whether or not they are manufacturers I have no idea, but simply mention their name for your information.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

April 26th. 1916.

Mr. F. S. Shapiro,
Tufts College,
32 West Hall,
Tufts College, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I have received your favor of the 22nd instant, and in reply beg to say that I shall have some experimental work in the line you mention, which could wait until June to be taken up. I could start you at $15. per week. If you want to try it, please let me know, and also say about what date in June you would be ready to commence work.

Yours very truly,

April 28th. 1916.

Madame Rita Wilbourne,
3837 Baring Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 26th instant to Mrs. Edison was referred by her to Mr. Edison, and we are requested to say in reply that Mr. Edison cannot see his way clear to write a letter commenting upon your daughter's ability. She was engaged here on experimental work only, and if Mr. Edison were to write any comments upon her ability, it would open the door to a great deal of trouble and annoyance for him from many sources.

Regretting that you cannot be accommodated, we remain,

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

018

6/7

683

April 28th. 1916.

Mr. Louis Lazard,
92 William Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Lazard:

Referring to my previous letter of this date, I am writing to ask what course you wish us to pursue in regard to Paraphenylenediamine.

You will remember that sometime ago, just before you went to the West Indies, you placed an order for one ton for future delivery, and gave us your check for $1400.00 as a 25% advance payment.

In your favor of the 26th instant you ask us to ship four 100 pound packages to Messrs. Lunham & Moore. This is covered by the payment of $1400.00 you made for us. In your favor of the 27th instant you askeus to ship an additional 100 pounds to Messrs. Lunham & Moore, which order shall receive our attention.

On account of your unfortunate experience in having the first large lot of Paraphenylenediamine turned back on your hands on account of delay in deliver. we do not wish to embarrass you, and if you wish us to do so we will can cel the balance of your order for 2,000 pounds.

On the contrary, if you wish the order to stand, we shall be glad to comply with your wishes, and would make it a point to constantly carry a few hundred pounds ready for immediate shipment until the remainder of the order has been complied with.

I trust you will realizethat we value your patronage and desire to handle the business to our mutual advantage.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

586

April 28th. 1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
% Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Under date of April 18th you kindly sent me a statement of total shipments made from April 20th, 1915 to April 18th, 1916. The following are the figures:

86,950	Gallons	C. P. Benzol
25,892	"	90% Benzol
30,813	"	C. P. Toluol
41,353	"	Solvent Naphtha.
185,008	total.	

I find on comparing your figures with mine in regard to Toluol that there is a discrepancy, which you can perhaps straighten out. So far as I know, the only Toluol you have shipped from the plant has been that which was shipped to Lunham & Moore, and this would comprise lots.Nos. 1 to 8. Lots 9 and 10 have not yet been shipped. My figures on the eighth shipments are as follows:

Lot #1.....	June 18th, 1915.....	2,939
" 2.....	July 3rd, 1915.....	2,867
" 3.....	July 28th, 1915.....	2,542
" 4.....	August 25th, 1915....	3,664
" 5.....	September 18th, 1915.	3,192
" 6.....	October 20th, 1915...	4,406
" 7.....	November 24th, 1915..	4,936
" 8.....	January 13th, 1916...	4,026
	Total.....	28,572

Will you please look into this matter and advise me at your early convenience where the difference lies.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

580

April 27th. 1916.

Mr. Charles Meigs Ripley,
110 West 40th Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 19th instant has been handed to me on my return from Florida. I have read your letter with a great deal of interest, and beg to express my appreciation of your courtesy in making me an offer of one of the old dynamos which were made so many years ago.

I would like very much to have one of these and to continue its operation so as to make a record of its life. If you will kindly advise me where it can be obtained, I will make arrangements for its transfer to my plant.

It will be a very interesting thing to me to keep track of the continuance of this test.

Yours very truly,

22

April 27th. 1916.

Cambria Steel Company,
Johnstown, Pa. Attention of Mr. Whittaker.

Gentlemen:

During my absence in Florida, Mr. Meadowcroft has had some telephone conversation with you about the disposition of the crude Naphthaline at my Benzol Plant located at your Works. As he informed you, it was my understanding, although not specifically mentioned in the contract, that all the by-products extracted from the gases would naturally be at my disposal.

As Mr. Meadowcroft told you, a like condition existed in regard to my Benzol Plant contract with the Woodward Iron Company, and later, when we found we could dispose of the Naphthaline, it was arranged that I should pay for it on the same basis as if it were Solvent Naphtha, figuring 7.25 pounds per gallon, thus making the royalty 1 1/4 cents per pound for the Naphthaline.

The way I feel about it is that inasmuch as I have expended money for labor, fuel, water, etc., for saving the crude Naphthaline, I should receive some compensation, and it seems to me that I ought to get 2 1/2 cents per pound net for it. Therefore, I should be willing to sell the crude Naphthaline so that it would net me 2 1/2 cents per pound, or I am willing to pay the Cambria Steel Company a royalty of 1 1/4 cents per pound, and take it away and sublime it.

I shall be glad to hear from you further on this subject.

Yours very truly,

Feb 7

[illegible] 1916.

Mr. [illegible] C. Shield, President,
Marshall Field & Company,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Shield:

On my return from Florida I find your esteemed favor of the 8th instant, and also the beautiful souvenir "The Cathedral of All the Stores". Let me thank you for your kindness in sending me this little brochure, which is certainly a gem, and on which I wish to congratulate you.

Yours sincerely,

April 27th. 1916.

Mrs. J. M. Barber,
Lock Box 46,
Cedarville, Ohio.

Dear Madam:

Your kind letter of appreciation has been received, and it affords me a great deal of pleasure to learn of your appreciation of the Diamond Disc Phonograph and Records. I am also much pleased to learn that you are so well satisfied with the treatment accorded to you by our people in your correspondence with them.

Your suggestion of having a record of Tosti's "Good-bye" sung by Alice Verlet will receive consideration. I have recently finished a new building which I have had specially constructed for recording, and I expect to produce after a while some fine records of classical music, including some of the symphonies of the great Masters.

I am pleased to comply with your request by sending you herewith a photograph, to which I have appended my signature.

Yours very truly,

Enclosure.

461

May 2nd. 1916.

H. W. Johns-Manville Co.,
239 Halsey Street,
Newark, N. J. Attention of Mr. Osborn.

Dear Sir:

Referring again to your favor of the 11th ultimo, Mr. Edison wishes me to state that he has no objection to your using the photograph that you have of the phonograph works.

He still adheres to his decision that he objects to you using the photograph of the Edison Chemical Works.

Yours very truly,

O'Hieconnier

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

288

May 2nd. 1916.

Mr. Fred. M. Kimball,
Manager Small Motor Department,
General Electric Company,
West Lynn, Mass.

My dear Mr. Kimball:

You wrote to me under date of March 23rd in regard to a form of motor which can be relied upon to drive a phonograph for a very considerable length of time without changing its speed characteristics. I wrote to you stating that I had sent the letter down to Mr. Edison in Florida, and he asked me to hold it until his return. He is back at the Laboratory, and now wishes me to write and say that we have a small motor department and have made a great many motors, in fact we are making about 100 per day for our business machine. We have not succeeded, however, in producing a motor that is practicable for the musical phonograph, because the requirements are so severe, and Mr. Edison feels certain that no one else has produced such a motor, nor are they likely to do so.

He wishes me to say to you that he will be glad to see you at any time.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

W. Miller

537

May 2nd. 1916.

Stein, Hirsh & Company,
61 Broadway,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

I have received your favor of the 1st instant requesting me to deliver to the Heyden Chemical Works on their order, 2,000 pounds of Carbolic Acid per day for your account, and will comply therewith.

I presume you have arranged with Heyden Chemical Works to call at our works for this Carbolic. If so, I think it would be well for you to ask them to let their truckman bring an order from them, in accordance with your letter, so that our records may be kept straight.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

We have 4000 lbs ready up to this morning

May 3rd. 1916.

Mr. Henry F. Hilfers, Secretary,
New Jersey State Federation of Labor,
68 South Orange Avenue,
Newark, N. J.

Dear Sir:

I received your favor of the first instant, and have investigated the matter you mention. Mr. Kircher denies that he refused to take any notice of the mens demands. A committee of the men told our Vice President, Mr. Wilson, that Mr. Kircher did refuse. So there you are, - the same old story. Who can we believe?

Let me say for your information, however, that on May 1st we advanced wages in many parts of the works, among those advanced were the transfer press men, the green hands being raised from 20 to 22 1/2 cents. When they have learned they get 25 cents, like the older men. When they have been here for some time and are found to be good and steady, they generally go to the print press department where a bonus system is in vogue, which gives them an opportunity of earning 26 to 28 cents per hour.

Our great trouble is with raw men, because they are so unsteady. They come and go constantly, This makes them the most costly men we employ because of their lack of experience with the work, and when they get to be fairly experienced they usually quit.

Yours very truly,

682

May 4th. 1916.

Lunham & Moore,
Produce Exchange,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the second instant has been received. Mr. Lazard wrote to us about the shipment of 600 pounds of Paraphenylenediamine, but said that the cases were to be marked LL. Your letter says they are to be marked L.G.Co. London, England. We have written to Mr. Lazard for instructions.

The material is practically ready, and we only await Mr. Lazard's instructions for shipment. You will undoubtedly be able to get the goods before the time for the steamer sailing about May 13th. 1916.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

606

712

May 4th. 1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Attention of Mr. Takaki.

Gentlemen:

Replying to your favor of the 1st instant in regard to liquefying chlorine gas plant, Mr. Edison wishes me to say that the Hooker Chemical Company, Niagara Falls, make electrolytic cells for manufacturing soda and chlorine, and he thinks they can furnish you with the outfit you desire.

Yours very truly,

Wm. H. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

699

~~334~~
709

May 6th. 1916.

Mr. Louis Lazard,
92 William Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Lazard:

I am in receipt of your esteemed favor of the 5th instant giving instructions for the shipments of 600 pounds and 200 pounds of Paraphenylenediamine, for London and Bordeaux respectively. These instructions shall have our proper attention.

I would say for your information that I am still awaiting instructions about shipment to the Oriental Navigation Company. Their office is at 17 Battery Place, so, of course, we could not ship there, as that is an office building. I wrote to them three or four days ago asking for shipping instructions, but have not yet heard from them. Perhaps you will be kind enough to give them a punch.

Yours very truly,

W. F. Holland

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

General Letterbook Series
Letterbook, LB-112 (1916)

This letterbook covers the period May-June 1916. Most of the correspondence is by Edison and William H. Meadowcroft. Included is correspondence pertaining to Edison's benzol absorbing plants and other chemical manufacturing interests. Some of the letters deal with the commercial development of phonographs and motion pictures. There are also items relating to the upcoming presidential election, including letters to Guy Emerson of the Roosevelt Non-Partisan League in which Edison endorses Theodore Roosevelt as "the only man that should be considered" and agrees to serve on the League's Advisory Board. A letter to artist Jacques Reich concerns a portrait of Mina Miller Edison. Other correspondents include Arthur E. Kennelly, former chief electrician at the West Orange laboratory, and representatives of Mitsui & Co. and Vickers, Ltd.

The spine is stamped "Letters" and is marked "T.A.E. From May 3 1916 To June 30, 1916." The number "50" also appears on the spine. The book contains 700 numbered pages and an index. Approximately 15 percent of the book has been selected.

Amer. Protective Tariff League 9-
Adams, C. E. 31-
Ast, J. 72-
Amer. Oil & Supply Co., 73-74-75-89-166-200-201-234-264-334-482-517-582- (continued below)
Acton, J. 136-188-233 287-
Armeda, Capt. N. 182-
Adams, Mrs. F. 193-
Ault & Wiborg 202-
Amer. Consul Gen. 231-
Ass. Mfg'rs Imp. Co. 235-
Allen, A. A. 248-
Arnold Print Wks. 307-
Ajax-Grieb Rubber Co. 374-
Amer Can Co. 343-
Atwell, S. C. 344-
Amer. Zylacq Co. 345-
Alexander & Co., G. S. 386-
Amer. Printing Co. 502-
Artowska, Mme. J. 518-
Alphonso, A. 566-
Aravanis, S. D. 620-
Amer. Oil & Supply Co. 632-
Algodt, O. D. 669-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Y Z

B

Bacon, J.	11- 118-119-185- 455- ~~503~~ 504 -519-520-679-
Billis, B.	32-
Burd, Capt. G. E.	46-
Bouton, G.	48-
Bifler, E. S.	76-
Brill, H. G.	77-
Barker, A. P.	91-
Brant, Mrs. A.	120-
Boe, M. O.	121-
Banister, R. H.	122-
Bartle, C. A.	137-
Bancom, G. E.	138-
Brennecke, C. H.	139-
Barrett, Miss M. M.	155-
Boera, R. J.	167-
Butcher, J. J.	236-
Boyds City Dispatch	249- 308- 373-
Beatti, Miss H.	266-
Brown, W.	267-
Bartholomae, T. C.	268-
Bangs, Mr. & Mrs. F. L.	269-
Brougham, H. B.	270- 387- 698-
Bartle, C. A.	288-
Bacon, Mrs. A. B.	294-
Butler, Dr. N. M.	336-
Butterworth-Judson Co.,	346-
Bosch Magneto Co.,	347-
Buell, W. N.	348-
Beach, D.	354-
Baker, E. M.	361-
Babcock, F. M.	388-
Berkowitz, J. H.	407-
Bradley Pitrating Co.,	408-
Blissfield Robe & Tanning Co.,	409-
British Fur Co.,	410-
Bromberg Son Co., M.	411-

Breen, H. M.	438-
Bartlett, W. F. S	454-
Blair, C. A.	472-
Boro Chem. Co.,	503 ~~502~~- 583-
Bulkin, H.	505 ~~504~~-
Bradley, C. A.	538-
Binney & Smith Co	590-
Bryan, W. S.	591-
Boone, C. C.	592-
Board of Health (Bloomfield, N. J.)	619-
Blish, H. H.	621-
Benneche, Mme. F.	622-
Briet, H.	633-
Burgher, C. S	634-
Bain, Miss W.	635-
Black, J. M.	664-
Buckley, V.	670-

C

Cowen, R. F.	12-
Crystal Hosiery Mills Co.	47-
Czajka, L.	49-
Crossley Mach. Co.	78-
Canfield, Mrs. H. A.	90-
Cambria Steel Co.	92-
Chesebro, Dr. E. D.	107-
Cokelly, F.	140-
Cliver, R. C.	141-250-
Chase, C. R.	142-
Chase, G. H.	177-
Cheney Bros.,	203-
Cobe, H. M.	204-
Carolina Drug Co.,	237-
Clinedinst, B. M.	251-688-
Crowther, S.	271-636-
Crawford, W. S.	272-
Cahan, A.	309-
Chandler, Mrs. M.	310-
Campbell, H. S.	379-
Caine, J. J.	384-
Culver, Mrs. A. L.	389-
Clark, Miss J. E.	439- ~~544~~
Chase, Miss A. E.	440-
Charles, R. S.	456-
Carman, W.	457-
Christiernsson, A. A.	458-
Crabb, C. C.	473-
Carty, J. J.	516-
Cook, Miss L.	521-
Campbell, C. H.	522-
Clarke, Dr. J. M.	539-
Cohen, S.	548-
Catfeld, B.	561-
Carlson, E. T.	567-
Clark, J. E.	549-
Columbia Dye Wks.	584-

Chamberlain, A. G.	604
~~Crowther, A.~~	636
Cooper & Co., C.	665

ABCD

D

Dominion Iron & Steel Co., 37-
Downs, L. 43-
Doring, W. S. 44-205-515-
Day Co., J. H. 93-
Dissette, Miss M. E. 94-
Daniels, Miss A. 123-
Doherty, F. J. A. 143-
Diehl, A. W. 156-
Doggett, S. 154-168-391-~~444~~ 500
Dick, Miss J. 191-
Duvall, Mrs. P. 195-
Dehls, H. H. 238-
Dekle, T. S. 273-
Daniel, H. S. 362-
Davis, W. L. 412-
Davis, Col. J. D. 413-
Detroit Fur Dressing & Dying Co., 414-
Dresher, G. B. 415-
Dreher, Mrs. C. R. 492-
Donatt & Co., O. 495-
Du Boise, S. E. 645-
Doherty, W. F. 671-

Edison Portland Cement Co., 10-13-293-
Engineering Magazine 30-
Emerson, G. 66-105-
Evans, M. F. 124-
Edison Jr., T. A. 289-
Edgar C. L. 392-
Edmands & Co., [illegible] 593-672-
Eastman Kodak Co., 634-
Export Amer. Industries 638-

Freedman, I. 14-108-
Fison, R. 125-416-639-
Freund & Bro., M. 144-257-
Fazzera, G. 206-
Falls Rubber Co., 207-
Frazer Dr. J. 239-
Foster, W.Y. 253-
Foss, E. M. 274-
Furnas, V. E. 295-
Fuller, H. E. 311-
Ford, F. S. 312-
Feinson, M. B. 383-
Freres & Co. C. & E. C. 393-
Fish, F. P. 394-
Figueroa Robe and Tanning Co, J. 414-
Fitzhugh, C. A. 459-
Frazier, Miss E. 537-
Fraser, J. 594-
Forbes, B. C. 623-
Farrar, N. 646-

F

Garriguen Co., C. F. 15-
Goldman, Sachs & Co., 33-
Gen. Elect. Co., 38-39-474-
Glover, G. T. 109-208-
German Gov. Car Co., 126-313-
Gormley, F. W. 127-
Glessner, H. H. 240-
Garner, Dr. A. R. 241-
Gould, S. 275-
Griffiths, Miss E. M. 296-
Grell, W. H. 395-
Gregori, Mme. E. 418-
Gatey, J. 441-
Greene, H. W. 475-
Gen. Chem. Co., 480-
Gibson, J. 506-
Greene Motor Car Co. 547-
Graves, T. J. 568-
Grace & Co., W. R. 647-
Gallinagh, Mrs. D. J. 678

G

Hofmann, A. J. 16-110-
Higgins, T. A. 17-
Henderson, S. 34-
Hitt, C. B. 50-95-
Howe, H. M. 51-
Heal, W. E. 52-
Holliday-Kemp Co. 67-
Howland, G. A. 169-
Herman & Herman 170-297-419-674-674-
Hawkins, J. K. 184-349-498-
Heyden Chem. Works 192-
Hochroth & Knight 196-
Hoffman, B. S. 197-
Humphreys, W. 209-
Hibben, Dr. J. G. 210-
Henry, J. 254-
Harper, Prof. S. N. 255-
Hunt, C. L. 292-
Hawley, A. R. 314-~~504~~ 505-
Haarmann-de Luxe Schaefer Co. 315-363-
Henderson, F. C. 364-
Hibber, Dr. O. G. 337-
Hawkins, T. E. 385-
Hoey, Miss J. G. 442-
Heyden Chem. Co. 443-487-586-
Hausen, G. M. 444-
Hamilton, C. A. 445-
Howliday-Kemp Co. 471-
Haldi, C. 488-
Hepler, H. H. 491-
Huron Fur Dressing Dying Co. 496-
Hollander, B. ~~499~~ 499-585-
Heizdel, F. ~~506~~ 507-
Hunt, R. A. 540-675-571-
Hageman, Miss M. A. 550-571-
Hoexter, S. J. 570-690-

Howard, E. P.	624-
Hudson, J. H.	673-
Hymans, S. S.	689-
Hunter, R. L.	700-

A B C D E F G H I

Ides, G.

211-

Johnson, R. E.	158-
Jackson, B. H.	189-
Johnson, H.	212-
Johnson, C. R.	276-551-584-
Johns-Manville Co. H.W.	316-
Jorgens, J. E.	437-
Journal of Commerce	630-
Jepson, C.	650-
Joy, H. B.	651-
Jones, E. E.	691-

J

Keith Car Co., 41-171-
Kerr Steamship Line, 54-
Knowles, E. 79-
Kretschmar, A. W. 96-
Keenan, E. C. 213-
Kibbe, W. J. 214-
Kinsley, S. A. 215-
Knecht, Dr. W. 232-052-
Kimball, F. M. 242-493-
Kinzie, Miss C. E. 256-
Kehner, A. M. 278-
Kennelly, Dr. A. E. 279-396-
Kruesi, R. J. 298-
Kountze, L. 317-350-
Keefer, H. L. & S. M. 523-
Knistel, N. H. 562-
Kinney, Miss M. V. 676-

K

Lunham & Moore 18-68-69-459-553-608-
Lazard, L. 19-70-97-98-145-172-~~149~~-243-351-446-497-552-601-677-
Lighton, W. R. 53-
Lockwood, H. A. 280-
Lozier, R. F. 335-653-
Lake, J. 338-
Langenbach, K. 420-572-
Luchini, B. A. 421-
Lundwall & Co., P. 460-
Leipzig Fur Dressing & Dyeing Co. 483-484-
Lawson, H. D. ~~500~~ 501
Lobdell, H. F. 524-

(continued below)

Mitsui & Co., 21-42-55-111-115-147-148-165-173-290-320-321-539-570
Murrell, D. J. G. 35-
Muller Gloria Mills 40-485-
Mac Andrews & Forbes Co., 65-
Merrimack Mfg. Co., 117-322-
Merck & Co., 128-218-
Mardick, J. R. 146-190-
Markus, C. W. 159-461-
Mallory, W. S. 174-526-
Mahamed, L. H. 179-
Morgan & Co., J. P. 216-
Macherlein, W. 219-291-
Manhattan Elect. Supply Co. 220-
Marsden-Sewell Corp. 257-
Munroe, J. H. 281-
Mylatt, Miss E. 300-
Millar, H. P. 318-
Maclaurin, Dr. R. C. 324-
Mackey-Wood Aniline Color Co. 352-375-
Miller, W. H. 422-
Maranda & Labrecque 423-494-
Martin, H. 424-
Murphy, Mrs. J. R. 525-
Marsters, Mrs. C. L. 527-
Mitsui & Co. 541-378-656-
Maynard, L. M. 554-
Mac Millan Co., 573-
Mendoza Fur Dyeing Wks. 574-
Morris & Roach 595-
Mack, E. C. 610-
Mutual Color Co., 611-
Martin J. H. 625-
Monarch Stamping Co. 654-
Mallinckrodt Chem. Wks. 655-
Metzger, J. 657-
Muir, J. N. 678-

M

Mc Morran C. W. 20-323-
Mc Cabe, R. C. 160-
Mc Lee Glass Co. 217-
Mc Bride, Mrs. E. L. 319-
Mc Bride H. 463-
Mc Cotter & Co. S. G. 481-
Mc Dowell A. 509-
Mc Callie, J. M. 528-
Mc Husland, G. 692-

Mc

N.Y. Quinine and Chem. Co., 22-56-606-643-
North, F. K. 99-
Nikolas & Co., G. J. 100-365-448-612-
New England Quartz Co of N.Y. 149-
New York Times 194-
Neale, N. A. 244-
Neubauer, G. M. 325-
Nowlan P. F. 353-
North Star Fur Dressing and Dyeing Co. 425-631-
Nat Fur & Tanning Co. 426-679-
N.Y. Fur Dresser & Dyer Co. 511-
Nitro Powder Co. 588-

N

Oldfield, W. M. 57-
Opdyke, C. H. 175-258-470-
Oser Mrs. M. E. 340-
Olson Bros. 427-
O'Connor, J. 449-
Oil Paint & Drug Reporter 613-687-
Oldham, Miss M. 658-
O'Callaghan, Miss H. B. 680-

Parrish, H. M.	23-
Proudfoot Comm. Agency	24- 129- 476-
Pollock, P	36-
Proctor, H. L.	80-
Pasquotank Hosiery Mills	81-
Parrish, N. C.	82-
Pendell, T.	153-
Percy, E. N.	180-
Prohaska, E. H.	245-
Packard, R. G.	247-
Pratt, E. C.	259-
Pennsylvania Tank Car Line	260- 326- 464- 556-
Plishley, W.	282-
Peterson, B.	301-
Phillips, J. H. A.	355-
Paul, H. W.	382-
Parsons, N. H.	555-
Preston, Mrs A. R.	546-
Poyer, Mrs N. E.	651-

P

Richardt, Miss M. C. 25-
Runnymede Mills Inc. 58-112-116-
Racine Rubber Co., 59-660
Raymond Bros. Impact Pul. Co. 101-
Ripley, C. M. 130-
Ross, A. B. 150-
Roosevelt, P. J. 221-
Rush, O. 246-
Rose, Mrs. J. M. 283-
Reich, J. 299-
Robins, J. 341-450-
Reilly, F. A. 397-
Rosen, H. 428-598-
Rosenstock, R. 429-
Randolph, A. H. 462-
Rivers, J. A. 465-
Rhodier, E. A. 478-
Robbins Fur Dressing & Dying Co. 597-684-
Riker, A. L. 626-
Riehl, H. G. 659
Richardson, S. B. 683
Rose, Mrs. C. D. 693-

Shutt, A. 1-431-
Smith, A. W. 2-
Strauss, A. A. 3-
~~Steel~~, Scheel, W. H. 60-176-532-
Shapiro, F. S. 61-132-324-
Schweitzer, Dr. H. 71-224-
Spangler, Mrs. M. 53-
Spofford, J. E. 84-
Simonds, Miss F. M. 85-162-261-
Second Nat Bank 88-
Sudderly, P. 102-644-
Schmulowitz, Sterobin & Dubin 103-467-599-
Std Supply Co., 131-
Scotland Neck Cotton Mills 134-401-
Schadewald Mills 151-
Scott, W. E. 152-
Stafford, B. 161-
Sowers Manufacturing Co., 183-
Smith, G. 181-
Smithsonian Institute, 187-
Stein, Hirsh & Co., 198-357-530-531-
Seaman, Major L. L. 222-
Stephens, Hon. D. V. 225-~~228~~-
Shepley, S. H. 226-640-
Sherwin-Williams Co., 227-
Schwab, E. 228-
Stephens, P. V. 229-
Siler, G. 262-369-
Solberg, A. C. 284-
Scheel, W. H. 302-398-
Schwaab, L. F. 303-575-
Salmon & Co., H. H. 304-576-
Sunset Rubber and Supply Co., 305-589-
Sherwin, Williams Co., 328-
Sumner, W. L. 329-
Shrimpton, B. F. 330-

S

Stoddard, H. H.	366-
Seymour, H.	367-
Silica Products Co.,	368
Spitz, E.	370-
Stanley Jordan & Co.	376-
Simpson, Mrs. B. R.	377-
Schumann, F. J.	380-
Sutton & Co., G. W.	356-
Smith, T. M.	358-
Sargent, M. L.	359-
Siner, R.	399-
Smith, H. O.	400-
Schgum & Uhlinger	430-
Schutz, E. G.	432-560-
Schwab & Co., M.	433-
Schnaufer, H.	434-661-
Shutt, A.	451-
Scholar, W. J.	452-
Sheerin, J. H.	466-
Sage Chem. Co.,	477-
Sparhawk, F. O.	512-
Snyder, J. R.	513-
Sofransky Co., H.	514-
Sholwell, C.	529-
Sinsheimer, A.	533-
Squibb & Sons, E. R.	535-602-
Shoemaker, J. B.	542-
Shaubert, J. C.	543-
Stahle, B.	557-
Smith, J. H.	558-
Schnaufer, F.	559-
Schafer, J. P.	563-
Strauss & Stedger	600-
Sager, A. E.	601-
Stern, L. J.	603-
Sawyer & Co., H. F.	604-

Scholder, Miss H.	614-
Stone, Miss L.	615-
Smith, G. T.	627-
Simons, R. S.	628-
Starevich, S.	641-
Smith, Kline & French Co.,	644-
Stafoster, Miss J.	682-
Sawyer & Co., H. F.	696-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M Mc N O P Q R S T

Thompson, A. W. 4-
Trimble, Mudge & Co., 26-
Textorius, J. 27-
Treasury, Sec. of the 154-
Trawick, T. L. 186-
Towers, W. H. 285-
Turner, E. C. 286-
Taylor, E. F. 331-
Tariff Commission League 371-
Toby, Mrs. C. H. 342-
Thompson, S. H. 360-
Treble, Dr. J. M. 381-
Thompson, Prof. E. 402-
Tillman, Hon B. R. 406-536-
Trades Reporting Bureau (The) 546-
Turner & Hefler Co., 577-
Taylor, C. A. 616-
Thomas Pub. Co. 662-
Tolhurst Mach Wks., 666-
Tyler, H. L. 695-

Underwood & Underwood	28-
U. S. Mfr's Product Co.,	86-
Union Mdse. Corp.	113-
Union Chem and Refining Co,	135-372-
Union Power Corp.	404-
Union National Bank	697-

Vickerst Ltd., 45-
Vogt, A. 87-
Verlet, Mlle. A. 133-
Vachow, N. H. 164-
Vail, J. N. 332-
Verlet, Mlle. A. 403-
Van Nostrand Co., D. 447-490-617-663-
Vistol Co. 578-
Varnum, C. D. 667-
Venter, Miss M. J. 685-

Wallace, C. A.	5-
Wilmot, W. D.	6-
Wagner, W. S.	7-
Wards Natural Science Estab.	29-
Weicker, T.	62-178-618-
Wood, B.	63-
Warner, B. S.	104-
Williams, J. S.	106-
Wintersteen, R. L.	114-
Williams, A.	230-
Wallior Lab	263-
Wylie, R.	306-
Wilson, H. C.	333-
Workman, M.	405-486-
Worthington Alger Co, The	435-
Western Tub Dressing & Dyeing Mfg	436-579-668-
Whalen, C. M.	453-
Wooton, J. A.	468-
Ward, J. B.	469-
Wiegand, W.	479-
Willis, R. H.	534-
Wall, B. C.	544-
Wright, P.	545-
Williams, S. W.	564-
Whitney, A. M.	565-
White, A. L.	565½-
Woodward Iron Co.	580-581-
Webb, J. H.	605-
Wheeler, H. A.	629-
World, The	642-
Whittemore, F. E.	686-

York Knitting Mills Co. 8-64-

Zeeman, H. 183-

May 2nd. 1916.

Mr. A. W. Thompson, Third Vice President,
The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company,
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Mr. Thompson:

Your favor of the 29th ultimo was presented to me yesterday by Mr. W. F. Kemble, and I had the pleasure of quite an interesting chat with him on the subject of personal equation. I showed him the special device that I have here for certain tests, and he seemed to be very much interested.

Hoping to have the pleasure of having another visit from you some day when you are in the vicinity, I remain,

Yours very truly,

May 3rd. 1916.

Mr. W. D. Wilmot,
Fall River, Mass.

Dear Mr. Wilmot:

Mr. Maxwell has shown me the poetry which you sent to him in your letter of April 25th, and I have read it with a great deal of interest and pleasure.

If this letter paper comes to you with a tinge of red, you will know it got it from my blushes.

With all good wishes, I remain,

Yours very truly,

May 4th. 1916.

Engineering Magazine,
140 Nassau Street,
New York City.

Attention of Mr. Funk

Gentlemen:

A few days ago we had a visit from Mr. W. F. Kemble who had an interview with Mr. Edison. He also saw the Chronograph as arranged by Mr. Edison for his own test. Mr. Kemble asked us to send a photograph of this instrument to you, and we take pleasure in forwarding two photographs of the same.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Enclosures.

May 5th. 1916.

Mr. C. E. Adams, Director,
The Hector Observatory,
Wellington, New Zealand.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of March ninth was handed to me on my return from Florida. Let me say in reply that Prof. G. W. Ritchie of the Carnegie Observatory at Mt. Wilson, Cal. has been trying to get a fused quartz mirror, and although he has the backing of the Carnegie Institution he has not been able to get any encouragement.

The fused quartz has many bubbles which fill with grinding material and make it impossible to polish the surface true near where it cuts through one of these bubbles.

A 40" mirror weighs 1,000 pounds and a 10' mirror weighs 18,000 pounds. Quartz has not been fused in such large masses.

If it could be fused and kept hot for a long period like glass the bubbles would probably rise and leave the mass clear.

This will probably be done some day, and it will bring a very great advance in astronomical mirror efficiency, as the temperature warping is their greatest trouble now.

Yours very truly,

PS. Inches of Quartz are made up to [illegible]

May 5th. 1916.

Messrs. Goldman, Sachs & Company,
60 Wall Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

CONFIDENTIAL

I am in receipt of your inquiry of the 28th ultimo in regard to A. Hollander & Son, Newark, N. J.

They are very large dyers of furs, and very enterprising. We sell them about $5,000. worth of materials per month, and they pay us promptly. We have never investigated their financial conditions as they pay us very promptly. I believe their profits are very high.

Yours very truly,

May 4th. 1916.

George Henderson, Esq.,
701 Franklin Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your favor of the 28th ultimo, let me say that I have been quite busy day and night since it was received, hence the delay in replying thereto.

I have received a letter from Mr. Mallory stating that he has called upon you and had a long talk with you about the matter, and has explained the present situation. If you or your client would desire to have a talk with me also on this matter I should be glad to see either or both of you at any time if you will advise me in advance of your coming.

Yours very truly,

May 3rd. 1916.

Mr. Porter Pollock,
%The William B. Pollock Co.,
Youngstown, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 26th ultimo has been brought to my attention on my return from Florida.

Let me say in reply to your inquiry that I did not continue my experiments for extracting the dust of the gas as it passes from the blast furnace, and, therefore, I am unable to help you out.

Yours very truly,

Thos H

May8th. 1916.

Dominion Iron & Steel Company,
% Bowring & Company,
17 Battery Place,
New York City. Attention of Mr. F.E.Morgan.

Gentlemen:

Referring to our recent correspondence in regard to your crude Naphthaline, let me say that I have a refining plant at one of my Benzol Plants, in which I refine the crude Naphthaline. This plant works very satisfactorily.

My proposition to you is that I will erect at my own expense a refining plant at your works at Sydney and take over what crude Naphthaline you have on hand and all of that which you make for one year, and to refine the same and pay you 2 1/2¢ per pound for the refined Naphthaline shipped away from this plant. You to rent me a small plot of ground necessary at a nominal price and to furnish me with steam at cost to you.

This contract to run for one year, with an option to me to continuefor one additional year, with a provision to sell you the plant at the end of the contract for two-thirds its actual original cost.

Yours very truly,

Thos H Chase

21

May 8th. 1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City. Attention of Mr. Takaki.

Gentlemen:

Replying to your favor of the fifth instant, in regard to liquid chlorine, I have seen Mr. Edison about the matter, and he says that there is a chlorine plant in operation at the Michigan Alkali Works, Wyandotte, Mich. They might sell you the drawings or furnish you with a plant.

Arnold Hoffman & Company, 32 Broadway, New York also make chlorine at their plant at Niagara Falls. The Goldschmidt Detinning Company, 60 Wall Street, New York also make chlorine. We do not know whether either of these concerns would be able to supply you with what you want, but there would be no harm in taking it up with them. We do not know whether or not the Niagara Electro Bleaching Company is equipped to make liquefied chlorine gas.

Mr. Edison wishes me to enclose a copy of a paper read at a meeting of chemical societies a short time ago.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr/ Edison.

Enclosure.

May 9, 1916

Vickers Limited,
Vickers House, Broadway,
Westminister, London, England.

Gentlemen:-

I am transmitting to you by Mr. Robert Saville two copies of a proposed agreement between you, Edison Storage Battery Company and myself, which, if you find satisfactory and will duly execute both copies thereof and deliver the same to me within four months from the date hereof, I will thereupon forward to you a third identical copy duly executed by myself individually and on behalf of Edison Storage Battery Company.

Very truly yours,

Thos A Edison

May 9th. 1916.

Mr. Henry M. Howe,
Broad Brook Road,
Bedford Hills, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the fifth instant was received and brought to Mr. Edison's attention. He has signed the application blank for membership in the American Society for testing Materials. He quite approves of your suggestion that his occupation should be entered as "Inventor".

I return the application for membership herewith.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

Draft

May 9th. 1916.

Mr. William E. Heal,
1400 K Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the third instant in regard to color process for use in motion picture work has been received. I beg to say in reply that we are no longer interested in such a process. During the last six years we have experimented to the extent of over $60,000.00, and lost it. We have also lost interest.

Yours very truly,

Good

May 9th. 1916.

Mr. W. K. Lighton,
Fayetteville, Ark.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your favor of the 26th ultimo, Mr. Edison wishes me to express his appreciation of your kind words in regard to the released record of "Morning, Noon and Night Overture". Your good opinion of this record is a source of much gratification to him.

He wishes me to say also that if the horn in an instrument is not set properly some reproducers will blast. Sometimes the reproducer itself will blast, while others will not. It is very difficult to make them all alike, just as it is difficult to make all violins alike. If your reproducer is poor, we will exchange it for a new one without charge.

He suggests that you go to a dealer and try some other reproducers.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Test

105

May 10th. 1916.

Mr. Guy Emerson,
12 Vanderbilt Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Sir:

Answering your question as to my views of Colonel Roosevelt for our next President, I would say that I believe he is absolutely the only man that should be considered at this crucial period. He has more real statesmanship, a better grasp of the most important needs of this country, and greater executive ability to handle the big international problems that will arise at the close of the war, than all the other proposed candidates put together. His energy, capacity and vast experience in large affairs of State and Nation for many years, together with his great patriotism and his intense Americanism, and his great knowledge in all lines of human endeavor make him decidedly the most striking figure in American life.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Mr. John E. Spoirora,
% Barnett Bank,
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 8th instant to Mr. Edison has been received, and he is greatly pleased to learn that your Diamond Disc Phonograph has given you such great satisfaction. He thinks you will be interested to learn that he has been putting in a good deal of hard work in improving the manufacturing technique of the records, and he believes you will notice a great improvement in later numbers.

As to your idea of utilizing the phonograph for making your trade announcements, he wishes me to state for your information that the manufacture of the Diamond Disc records is a matter of very great delicacy, involving factory processes that have taken years to perfect, and it is only by the exercise of the utmost care and skill that the natural reproduction of the human voice is accomplished.

It would be practically impossible to carry out your wishes and obtain a true and natural reproduction of the human voice with any records made by an amateur and reproduced "hot off the griddle" so to speak. It would be of no use whatever to make any attempt to accomplish such a result.

Of course, you could take one of the Edison Dictating machines and dictate to a wax cylinder and have it reproduced, but it would only be the regular talking machine style of reproduction, and would not deceive anybody.

So far as we are concerned, the idea is absolutely of no value whatever. We would not waste one minute on it.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Trust

May 12th. 1916.

Cambria Steel Company,
Johnstown, Pa. Attention of Mr. Whittaker.

Gentlemen:

I sent you the following telegram yesterday:

"Referring my letter April 27th to your Mr. Whittaker, are you willing I shall take crude Naphthaline on royalty basis of one and quarter cents pound? I have request for quotation from Johnstown local concern".

I have had no reply from you as yet, and write now to comfirm this telegram. The inquiry for the crude Naphthaline comes to me from the Union Chemical & Refining Company, Johnstown, Pa., and I cannot quote them until I receive your answer.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. E.
Ou

Quiet

May 11th. 1916.

The J. H. Day Company,
Harrison Ave. & Bogen Street,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 9th instant has been received, and I thank you for your prompt reply. It seems that I did not get a proper understanding of Mr. Edison's requirements when I wrote you before. He wants a regular paint mill for grinding the carbon black into a thin liquid, like paint. Mr. Edison says he is a little afraid of stone grinding surfaces and for his particular purpose would not like to have metallic grinding surfaces.

Have you any such mill to offer?

Yours very truly,

W. Holzwarth

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

May 16th. 1916.

Mr. Guy Emerson, Secretary,
Roosevelt Non-Partisan League,
12 Vanderbilt Avenue.
New York City.

Dear Mr. Emerson:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 11th instant asking my consent to add my name to the list of the members of your Advisory Board, and in reply would say I am willing that you should do so.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Trust

May 15th. 1916.

Hon. John Skelton Williams,
Comptroller of the Currency,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Williams:

I have been working day and night, and all through the nights, for nearly three weeks. I did not see my last week's mail until yesterday, hence the lack of promptness in replying to your favor of the sixth instant. I trust, however, it will be in time for your purpose.

In addition to the inventions and discoveries mentioned in your letter, let me suggest the following: the Diesel and Turbine engines; obtaining nitrogen from the air by electric processes; the nitrifying of bacteria on the legumes, giving nitrogen to the soil. Surgical transplantation of large parts of the living body, which continue to function. The discovery that the hearts of small animals can perform their functions and can continue to beat for months after being detached from the body when placed in the proper environment. The electric production of acetylene, cyanamide, chlorates and many other chemicals. The invention and introduction of automatic machinery for manufacturing bottles with great rapidity direct from the raw materials to the complete bottle. High speed tool steel alloys doubling the productiveness of all machine tools. Electric drives on individual machines in manufacturing establishments. The development of anti-toxins for the cure of typhoid, syphilis and other diseases.

Trusting that the above will be of some service to you and with kind regards, I remain.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

May 16th. 1916.

Dr. Edmund D. Chesebro,
Elmwood Ave. and Hawthorne St.,
Providence, R. I.

Dear Dr. Chesebro:

I trust you will kindly excuse the delay in acknowledging receipt of your very kind favor of the 28th ultimo. I wanted to show it to Mr. Edison, but he has been on one of his characteristic campaigns, turning night into day and sleeping around on cots and shelves and benches. I am afraid he will never get over his industrious habits.

It plays havoc with his correspondence. For instance, he did not see his correspondence all last week, but cleaned it up yesterday. When this happens, I get snowed under for a day or so.

So much for explanation, and now I want to thank you in his name for your very kind letter and for your courtesy in sending the roll of Seabury and Johnson's plaster and a few labels such as you have used for your records. Mr. Edison also wishes me to thank you very much for your kind interest and to say that we will try the label and see if it will pass the various tests, although he fears it will not. You may rest assured, however, that it will have a fair trial.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

111

147

May 15th. 1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City. Attention of Mr. Takaki.

Gentlemen:

Mr. Meadowcroft has communicated to me the purport of his conversation with you over the telephone in regard to the Woodward Toluol. It appears that they are now producing at Woodward a larger quantity of Toluol than the 120 gallons necessary to fill your contract with the Hercules Powder Company, and you desire to ascertain whether you shall return to me at the same price the 5,180 gallons which I recently let you have from my Johnstown Plant at $2.18 per gallon, to enable you to keep your contract delivery to the Hercules Powder Company; or whether you should sell the excess Toluol produced at Woodward and put the proceeds into our joint account.

I thank you for calling attention to this matter, and would say that I think I would prefer to have you return to me 5,180 gallons at $2.18 per gallon, which can be taken out of the excess production as it is made at the Woodward Plant.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

11
119

May 16th. 1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
% Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Sir:

We have been in negotiation with the Union Chemical and Refining Company in regard to our crude Naphthaline. They want us to quote a price, and we had to first make some preliminary arrangements with the Cambria Steel Company, as crude Naphthaline was not specifically mentioned in our contract.

We have now arrived at a definite understanding with the Cambria Steel Company, and have made a quotation of price to the Union Chemical and Refining Company. We telegraphed them today. I think that they will undoubtedly take our crude Naphthaline, so please be prepared to let them take it away. I have not yet received their definite order for it, but shall telegraph you the moment I do receive it.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

118

183

May 16th. 1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
℅ Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 14th instant, and am glad to learn that you will have a shipment of refined Solvent Naphtha ready in two or three days. Please ship this to the Bayway Chemical Company, as usual. Kindly excuse me for reminding you once more that this Solvent Naphtha should be free of water.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

P.S. I have requested our Purchasing Department to send you the ten drums of Caustic Soda.

Good

May 16th. 1916.

Miss Alice Daniels,
1507 Wilton Street,
Denver, Colo.

Dear Madam:

Replying to your favor of the 11th instant, we beg to say that Mr. James B. Adams was formerly employed by us, but we dispensed with his services on March 18th, and we do not know his present address.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Filed
318

May 16th. 1916.

Merck & Company,
45 Park Place,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Referring to your favor of the 8th instant, we have requested our plant to send to you samples of our Sodium Sulphite and Sodium Acetate. We shall be glad to have you advise us whether you are interested in these after you have received and examined the samples.

In regard to Iron by Hydrogen, we would say that we manufacture large quantities for our storage batteries, and for the last three or four months have been making an excess, which has been sold to several chemical manufacturers and jobbers. It is a higher grade than U.S.P., but has a trace of Sulphur, which comes from our using sulphates in its manufacture. We do not care to use chlorides, as it would necessitate altering our present apparatus, and we could not produce it as cheaply as we now do from sulphates. You have already had a sample of this Iron by Hydrogen, and you turned it down on account of the Sulphur.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Patent

May 16th. 1916.

Mr. Charles Meigs Ripley,
110 West 40th Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Ripley:

I have received your favor of the 15th instant, and have taken up the whole matter again with Mr. Edison. He wishes me to say that he has had a report on the old dynamo at the Mills Building, and that it is not one of the type that he was looking for, and, therefore, he would not be interested in continuing the test of its life. I think that what he was hoping for was one of the few machines that were made at Menlo Park.

Mr. Edison wishes me to thank you very much for the opportunity which you have so kindly offered him, and he regrets that he has put you to so much trouble about it, especially as he would not be interested in the dynamo you have so courteously offered.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

May 18th. 1916.

Mlle. Alice Verlet,
637 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mlle. Verlet:

I have shown to Mr. Edison your favor of the 13th instant and also the newspaper clipping. There are a lot of mistakes that were made in the preparation of this newspaper article and Mr. Edison is especially angry that your name was left out of the list. He wishes me to express to you his sincere regret for the omission of your name. He would not have had it happen for a great deal.

I am too polite to tell you what he thinks of the man who is responsible for this blunder, but I can tell you that Mr. Edison is investigating and I am afraid it will go hard with the man who has made these awful mistakes.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Paid

188

May 17th. 1916.

Mr. John Acton,
118 John Street,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Edison is looking for the old standard Bogardus paint mill, and the directories that we have do not give the name of the old company. We notice, however, in one of the trade directories that your name is given as a manufacturer of Bogardus steel roller mills. I write, therefore, to ask the question for Mr. Edison whether these are the Bogardus paintmills. He wishes to grind carbon black into a thin liquid and desires to have the black ground exceedingly fine.

Will you kindly let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

252

May 16th. 1916.

Henry Freund & Bro.,
65 Nassau Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 5th instant has been handed to Mr. Edison, and he has given it his personal attention. He requests me to write and ask the price of the timing device mentioned in the first paragraph of your letter. This is the device graded to 1/100th of a second and divides and records the time up to that space of time.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Henry

May 17th. 1916.

Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

S I R:

I shall be greatly obliged if your Department will kindly advise me as to the extent of the yearly imports and approximate prices, for three years before the European War, of the following, namely:

Potassium Chloride
" Hydroxide
" Chlorate
" Perchlorate
" Cyanide.

Respectfully yours,

Thomas A. [illegible]
[illegible]

May 18th. 1916.

Mr. R. C. McCabe, City Editor,
New York American,
238 William Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your Mr. Lewis Wood wrote to Mr. Edison under date of yesterday for an interview or statement in regard to the matter of "wiring tapping". Mr. Edison wishes to say that he does not care to be interviewed or to make any statement on this subject.

Yours very truly,
Edison Laboratory.

Filed
258

May 18th. 1916.

Mr. C. H. Opdyke,
% Edison Benzol Plant,
Woodward, Ala.

Dear Mr. Opdyke:

I have arranged to send down to you 50 - 110 gallon steel drums. Please keep these separate by themselves and use them only in accordance with the following explanation:

Mitsui & Company were short 5,180 gallons to make a shipment under their contract, and arranged with Mr. Edison to let them have that quantity of toluol from our Johnstown Plant. This was done for Mitsui & Company's accommodation, and now they want to repay this 5,180 gallons to Mr. Edison. They want to repay him this toluol from the Woodward Plant as it can be spared, and still fill their contract with the Hercules Powder Company. Mr. Takaki of Mitsui & Company telephoned me yesterday that you have about 2,000 gallons to spare and still have sufficient so that you will have enough to fill a tank car for the Hercules Powder Company on the next shipment day.

You will, therefore, please receive and act only on instructions from Mitsui & Company as to the quantity that you can send to Mr. Edison at any time on account of this 5,180 gallons. Please do not take any chance of running short on the contract for the Hercules Co.

When you ship any toluol to Mr. Edison under this arrangement, please mark each drum "Toluol", with contents, and ship to Thomas A. Edison Aniline Plant, Silver Lake, N. J., via Erie delivery, and always notify me when you make a shipment.

Yours very truly,

67

May 18th. 1916.

Mr. Theodore Weicker, Vice President,
E. E. Squibb & Sons,
78 Beekman Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Weicker:

Your favor of the 16th instant has been shown to me by Mr. Meadowcroft, and I must confess that I am very greatly surprised to have you offer any criticism of the Carbolic Acid shipped you, in view of your favor of the 26th ultimo, in which you said that the Phenol then sent you was "very satisfactory".

I must confess that I am more than puzzled to understand how there could possibly be any complaint as to quality. The Phenol that we send you is prepared with exceeding great care. It is double distilled and only the very choice of the distillation is forwarded on your shipments. I am furnishing the United States Army and Navy with a considerable quantity each month, which is always inspected before it is accepted. The inspection is exceedingly rigid in each case, and we have never had any of our Phenol rejected by either the Army or Navy Inspectors.

As to the price, let me say that I am not charging you a higher price than I charge other customers who are buying larger quantities, and with whom I have arrangements, such as we made, for a supply throughout the present year. Doubtless you will remember that when I commenced to supply you with Phenol, I was getting as much as $1.00 and upwards from other customers, but I named you what I thought a moderate price as I was looking forward to a continuance of business with you after the cessation of the war.

Yours very truly,

May 16th, 1916.

Mr. Giles, Smith, Assistant Secretary,
Tacoma Commercial Club and Chamber of Commerce,
Tacoma, Washington.

Dear Mr. Smith:

I have received your favor of the 8th instant, together with a copy of the Tacoma book.

In the present state of the art I do not think it would be practical to make a phonograph that would be capable of doing acceptable work in making the announcements for so large a structure as the Stadium at Tacoma. I would not go so far as to say that it is impossible to produce such an instrument, but it would take a great deal of time and experiment, and probably would be a very costly affair. In any event, I am simply overwhelmed with work at this time and could not possibly undertake to experiment upon it just now.

Yours very truly,

May 16th. 1916.

Capt. Nick Armeda,
Fort Myers, Fla.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 11th instant has been received, and I am sorry to say that I shall be unable to arrange to allow you a discount on a Diamond Disc Phonograph. The trouble is that we are under very strict contract conditions with all of our jobbers and dealers, and if we were to supply phonographs to our friends and allow them a discount we would thereby break our agreements, and, of course, that is not to be thought of.

However, if you buy a Diamond Disc Phonograph, I do not want you to go empty handed, so I enclose herewith a letter to Mr. Zeeman asking him to allow you to pick out half a dozen records for yourself, which please accept with my compliments.

Thanking you for your kind wishes, which are heartily reciprocated, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Enclosure.

May 20th. 1916.

Curator,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Sometime ago we had a little correspondence with a gentleman of your staff, who asked Mr. Edison if he could furnish the Institution with one of the larger type of tin foil phonographs that were made shortly after the invention of that instrument by Mr. Edison. The correspondence is filed away, but unfortunately we do not recall the name of the gentleman to whom we wrote.

This gentleman told Mr. Edison in his letter that the collection in the Smithsonian Institution was deficient in that it did not include the example of the type of phonograph referred to, and Mr. Edison said that he would try to get one and if he was successful would present it to the Institution.

If this instrument is still desired, to make the collection complete, we are ready to furnish it if you will kindly send full directions for the forwarding of the same. Kindly send these instructions to me.

Yours very truly,

Wm. H. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Wilson

May 20th. 1916.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. John G. Hibben,
Princeton University,
Princeton, N. J.

My dear Sir:

Replying to your esteemed favor of the 17th instant, let me say that my doubt as to the Bazaar was founded upon a private report I received which showed that the original promoters of the Bazaar had a rather shady past. I had them investigated.

I shall help out by purchasing tickets for a number of my men.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

May 22, 1916.

Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co.,
23 Wall Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed find two bills covering two shipments of Toluol made May 2nd 1916 amounting to $4.044.60

Kindly send check at your earliest convenience and oblige,

Yours very truly.

Secretary.

291

May 16th. 1916.

Mr. William Maegerlein,
2701 Archer Avenue,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I beg to thank you for your favor of the fifth instant and also for the samples of prepared skin. I shall be very glad to have these tested for my diaphragms and other uses.

I shall communicate with you further on the matter if I find they can be used to advantage.

Yours very truly,

May 16th. 1916.

Mr. Philip J. Roosevelt, Editor,
American Defense,
303 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

I have been working day and night the last three weeks, and have just seen your favor of the 11th instant.

I shall have to ask you to excuse me from complying with your request for a statement to be published in the current issue of American Defense.

I am so busy on some special investigations I am making that I only get four or five hours sleep a day, - some days not even that, - and I really cannot find time for anything else just now.

Yours very truly,

May 16th. 1916.

Major Louis Livingston Seaman, President,
British War Relief Association, Inc.,
542 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Major Seaman:

I have been working day and night the last few weeks, hence there has been some delay in my mail. Your favor of the 11th instant has just come to my attention.

An overwhelming number of requests to serve on committees, etc., come to me, and I am obliged to ask to be excused. The appearance of my name in connection with any matter of a public nature means an avalanche of additional mail, which adds so much to my labors that I am compelled to avoid it wherever it is possible. I must, therefore, ask to be excused in this case.

Yours very truly,

71

May 16th. 1916.

Dr. Hugo Schweitzer,
117 Hudson Street,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Schweitzer:

Allow me to thank you for the pamphlet on Aspirin which you sent to me in care of Mr. Meadowcroft.

It seems to me that what you should do is to combine with Aspirin the strong alkali called Tetraethylammonium-hydroxide.

Tetraethylammonium is one of the alkalies found in the lower intestines in man. It dissolves dry uric acid crystals over twenty times more freely thanany other solvent, and its alkalinity is so powerful that it will actually displace potassium from potassium salts.

I know about this, as I tried many experiments with the Tetraethylammonium in connection with filaments for incandescent lamps.

Yours very truly,

May 20th. 1916

Hon. Dan V. Stephens,
House of Representatives U. S.,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Stephens:

I have received your favor of the 17th instant, together with copy of the Stephens Bill on the subject of price maintenance.

For some weeks past I have been working about 140 hours a week on some special experiments that are of vital importance to my business. I am not yet finished, nor do I expect to be for some weeks to come, and it will be impossible for me to get away to appear before the Committee. I regret my inability to find time to help you in this particular case.

Yours very truly,

May 23rd. 1916.

American Consul General,
Zurich, Switzerland.

Dear Sir:

I have been in correspondence with Dr. W. Knecht of 47 Rue du Righi, Zurich, in regard to a chemical process which he claims to be able to furnish to me. I am willing to pay the sum he asks for such process if I can feel assured that he is a man of good reputation.

In our correspondence he has stated that he is a Chemical Engineer of the Federal Polytechnical School of Zurich and Ph.D. of the University of Zurich. He also states that he occupied the position of first chemist with the Usines du Rhone at La Plaine, near Geneva, and was also connected for fourteen years with the French works of the Badische Aniline & Soda Fabrik in the capacity of technical Manager.

He gives as reference the American Consul General at Zurich, and I am, therefore, venturing to trouble you in this matter. The price he asks for the description and formulae of the chemical process above referred to is $200.00. I have had a check made to his order for the equivalent of this sum, namely £41-15-0, on London City & Midland Bank Ltd., London, England, such check being made by the Union National Bank, Newark, N. J., being #157815, and enclose the same to you herewith. I have written to Dr. Knecht that this check has been forwarded to you.

If Dr. Knecht is what he claims to be, and is a man of good reputation, and likely to do the square thing, I would ask you to kindly give this check to him in exchange for the description of the process which I am buying from him. This he will deliver to you under seal, and I shall be obliged if you will kindly transmit it to me at your early convenience after its receipt.

Apologizing for giving you a little extra trouble, but thanking you in advance for your courtesy, I remain,

Yours very truly,

P.S. Duplicate of these letters will be sent by a later steamer.

652

May 23rd. 1916.

Dr. William Knecht,
47 Rue du Righi,
Zurich, Switzerland.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 3rd instant to Mr. Meadowcroft has been shown to me by him.

I thank you for your attention, and will accept your offer to furnish to me for the sum of $200.00 your good process of making Paraphenylenediamine, as mentioned in your letter.

In order to save time, I have procured a draft for the equivalent of $200.00, payable to your order, such draft being in the form of a check of the Union National Bank of Newark, N. J., drawn on the London City and Midland Bank Ltd., London, England, and have sent it to the American Consul General at Zurich, asking him to exchange the draft with you for the description of your process, which you please deliver to him in a sealed envelope for transmission to me.

You have given as reference the American Consul General, and I have taken you at your word and have made some inquiries in regard to yourself, as you are a stranger to me at this moment. If he sends me a satisfactory reply, - as I have no doubt he will, I shall be glad to conduct further business relations direct with you.

Yours very truly,

P.S. Duplicate of these letters will be sent by later steamer.

493

May 23rd. 1916.

Mr. Fred. M. Kimball, Manager,
Small Motor Department,
General Electric Company,
West Lynn, Mass.

Dear Mr. Kimball:

Your favor of the 18th instant came to hand in due season and I have shown it to Mr. Edison. He has been so busy day and night that there has been a little delay.

He says all right, he will give your motor a chance, so I would suggest that it might be well for you to drop in some day when you are coming this way, and bring the motor along with you. I suppose it is not too heavy for a big husky fellow like you to carry.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

144

May 23rd. 1916.

Henry Freund & Bro.,
65 Nassau Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 19th instant quoting price on the timing instrument has been received and submitted to Mr. Edison. He wishes to thank you for your prompt response and desires me to say he may need one of these instruments later on.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Trust

May 22nd. 1916.

Miss Cora Elsie Kinzie,
℅ The Miller-Walle School of Speech Reading
for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing,
71 Estey Hall,
17th and Walnut Streets,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Madam:

I have received your favor of the 16th instant, and to tell you the truth I have never given any serious thought to the subject of speech reading so far as I am personally concerned. There is little doubt that it is helpful, generally speaking, to be able to understand conversation through the eye.

Personally, however, I would not be able tp spare the time for training in this direction. I am already working from eighteen to twenty hours a day on matters that require my close attention, and it would be simply impossible for me to spare the time to take a course of training, such as you suggest.

Yours very truly,

Trust

May 22nd. 1916.

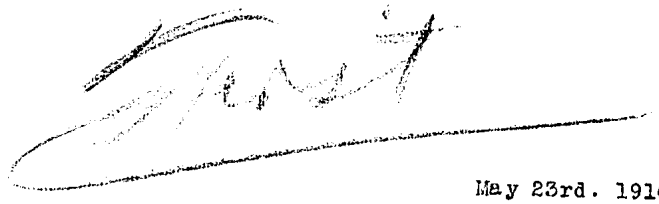
Mr. E. C. Pratt, Chief of Bureau,
Department of Commerce,
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have received your favor of the 16th instant, and in reply would say that I can only give you the result of my own efforts in regard to the establishment of new industries in the United States as the result of the European War.

I have erected two Benzol and Toluol absorbing plants, also three chemical works, two of which are for manufacturing Carbolic Acid, and the other for manufacturing Aniline Oil, Aniline Salt, Acetanilid, Acetate of Soda and Paraphenylenediamine. These plants are all in successful operation at the present time. I have erected and operated them to help out various industries, and I expect that these plants will be as dead as Adam when the War is over.

Yours very truly,



May 23rd. 1916.

Mr. Eugene N. Foss,
% B. F. Sturtevant Company,
34 Oliver Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Foss:

In acknowledging receipt of your favor of the 20th instant, let me thank you for your courtesy in sending me a copy of "Russian Prohibition" by Mr. Ernest Gordon. This is very interesting reading, and I am much obliged to you for sending me the copy of it.

Yours very truly,

Text

396

May 22nd. 1916.

Dr. A. E. Kennelly, Director,
Research Division,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Kennelly:

I have received your favor of the 18th instant, and also the manuscript of the paper by you and Mr. O. R. Schurig on tractive resistances to a motor delivery wagon on different roads and at different speeds. This is a very interesting paper, and bears evidence of a lot of good work. I am very glad to have the opportunity of looking it over, and thank you for sending me a copy in advance of publication.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Email

May 24th. 1916.

Mr. H. A. Lockwood,
10 Church Court,
Springfield, Vt.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 20th instant, anf feel greatly obliged that you have written to me to ask about our cylinder records.

There is absolutely not a word of truth in the rumor that we intend to discontinue the manufacture of the blue amberol records. On the contrary, we are pushing them harder than ever, and to that end we are constantly improving the quality of our product and striving to make of it the very best.

Some of the agents of our competitors are very unscrupulous and industriously circulate false rumors in order to try and divert business their way.

I think you will find that our product in the cylinder records is constantly improving.

Yours very truly,

Edison

May 27th. 1916.

Mr. Edward L. Hunt,
Forest Hills Gardens,
Long Island, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Hunt:

I wish to confirm our telephone conversation this morning, and to repeat to you that Mr. Edison says that he does not wish to be dragged into politics in any way, shape or manner, and, therefore, he cannot take any action in the matter referred to in the papers submitted by you. He declines to pass any opinion on the subject.

Many requests have been made to Mr. Edison to express opinions or to take some active interest in the campaign, but he has absolutely declined in all cases to be dragged into politics in any way.

I think it best to return all your papers, and enclose them herewith. No one but Mr. Edison and I have seen them, and I am going to return them to you by registered mail for safety sake.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosures.

Test

May 26th. 1916.

Mr. Vincent E. Furnas,
523 Fifth Street,
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 17th instant with description and drawing has been referred to Mr. Edison. He wishes us to say in reply that this idea is very old, and has been suggested by a vast number of people in the last thirty years. It is one of those ideas that is self-evident to anyone familiar with the phonograph business, and there have been several patents taken out in England and Germany for constructions of devices to permit its utilization. Our disc instrument has 150 threads to the inch, and, therefore, our 12" record would play 7 1/2 minutes. There would be no difficulty in making an instrument with 200 or even 250 threads, but most musical selections are such that a 10" Edison disc is satisfactory.

We return your description and drawing herewith.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Enclosures.

Gent

May 27th. 1915.

Mr. Jacques Reich,
New Dorp, Staten Island,
New York.

Dear Mr. Reich:

I received your favor of the 20th instant and immediately communicated with Mrs. Edison in regard thereto, and asked her if she would not take the matter up so as to decide it one way or the other.

This morning I have received a note from Mrs. Edison stating that she would like to have you call and see her at the house sometime during the second week of June, and she will talk to you about the etching.

For your information I would say that Mr. Edison's house is called Glenmont, and it is in Llewellyn Park, West Orange. I think the most satisfactory way for you would be to take the Lackawanna train, get off at Orange and take a carriage at the depot up to Mr. Edison's house.

I would suggest that you write to Mrs. Edison a few days in advance of the time that you will call, so that she will be aware of your coming.

Yours very truly,

W. H. [illegible]

May 29th. 1916.

Mr. Abraham Cahan, Editor,
Jewish Daily Forward,
Forward Building,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 26th instant to Mr. Edison has been received and submitted to him. He requests me to say that he will see you any day at the Laboratory.

I would suggest that you call me up in advance of your coming, and then I shall be able to tell you if he will surely be here.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Sweet

May 26th. 1916.

Mr. F. S. Ford,
Muscatine, Iowa.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your very interesting favor of the 22nd instant, and wish to thank you for having written me so fully and frankly.

There are a great many people, who, same as yourself, like the cylinder machine and records best. It is certainly a justification of your view of the matter to be able to say that we are doing a large business in amberola machines and amberol records, notwithstanding the disc.

I take pleasure in sending you herewith our latest catalogue of amberola machines and records.

Yours very truly,

Thos. [illegible]

Enclosures.

508

May 29th. 1916.

Mr. Alan R. Hawley, President,
Aero Club of America,
297 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Edison received your favor of the 25th instant, and also the copy of the special edition of the New York World which was delivered to Washington by an aeroplane, for which he wishes me to express his thanks to you.

He would like to have you send to me, for him, another copy of the first "Aeroplane Edition of the New York World" which he wishes to preserve for his personal files.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Thos A

May 26th. 1916.

Mr. George M. Neubauer,
403 Oriel Building,
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Neubauer;

I am in receipt of your favor of the 22nd instant, and am glad that you have written me fully and frankly in regard to your records.

Will you kindly make a close examination of the record or records which give the sharp sound. If you find a fine crack in the record, please go to the dealer from whom you bought the same and get it exchanged for a good one. We make good to the dealer any records exchanged for this particular defect, so your dealer will make the change without any charge.

We want all our customers to feel satisfied.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Paul

May 29th. 1916.

The Sherwin-Williams Co.,
601 Canal Road, N. W.,
Cleveland, Ohio. Attention of Mr. C. G. Bull.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 26th instant has been received, and I beg to say in reply that I stand ready to contract with you for your next year's requirement of approximately 500 pounds of Aniline Oil per day at the rate of 40¢ per pound, F. O. B. Silver Lake, N. J., drums extra, to be credited if returned in good condition within sixty days.

Awaiting the favor of your reply, I remain,

Yours very truly,

May 29th. 1916.

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, Pres.,
Columbia University in the City of New York,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Butler:

Replying to your esteemed favor of the 22nd instant, let me say that I take pleasure in accepting the invitation to become a member of the Honorary Committee of Americans to aid in the restoration of the University of Louvain on the termination of the European War.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Grant

May 29th. 1911

Dr. John G. Hibben, President,
Princeton University,
Princeton, N. J.

My dear Dr. Hibben:

I have received your favor of the 26th instant, in regard to the Allies Bazaar, and would say that since I last wrote you I have written to Mr. C.A. Coffin that I would donate a phonograph, and that I have made arrangements to have attendants at the Bazaar from start to finish to give recitals frequently.

I am willing to donate a Dictating Machine also, and have asked Mr. Nelson C. Durand, the Manager of our Dictating Machine Department to get into communication with you and to arrange the necessary details.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

321
378

May 29th. 1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
35 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Attention of Mr. Takaki.

Gentlemen:

Mr. Meadowcroft has handed me your favor of the 15th instant calling attention to a complaint from your people in Japan to the effect that some of the Phenol is found insoluble in water and some is not quite transparent when dissolved in water. I regret, of course, to learn that there is the slightest reason for any complaint. My chemists have always been instructed to be very careful in the manufacture of all our Phenol. Inasmuch as we are supplying Phenol from the same plant to the United States Government under very rigid tests, I can only surmise that possibly there may have been a little dirt in one or more of the drums in which the Phenol was shipped to Japan.

The tests which are made on pure Phenol by the representatives of the United States Army and Navy are very rigid, and up to this time we have never had any of our Phenol rejected by the Government.

Yours very truly,

May 31. 1916.

Mrs. Marion E. Oeser,

Postlagernd, Neuenburg,

Baden, Germany.

Dear Mrs. Oeser:

Received your wireless message and showed it to Mr. Edison. Glad you are improving from your illness.

He did not understand what you meant by the words "don't forget", unless it meant your remittances had failed to reach you. I took the matter up with the bank, and they say they have been advised that January and February payments reached Freiburg, but have not heard of the receipt of March. They are tracing it.

On May 27th our bank transferred to you April and May. I hope these will reach you safely and find you quite well again. Mr Edison increased the remittances to $300.

Your father is well and busy as usual.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.

195

530

June 1st. 1916.

Stein, Hirsh & Company,
51 Broadway,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Referring to my telephone conversation with your Mr. Stein, this morning, in which he said that the Heyden Chemical Company were complaining about leaky cans and quality of our product, I beg to say that I immediately telephoned the Chief Engineer of the Plant and asked him to investigate this matter immediately.

He immediately got into communication with the General Superintendent of the Heyden Chemical Works, and found that the leaking had occurred to a small extent in a few cans, which had evidently been taken away from our works before crystallizing . The injury to the cans must have occurred in transportation, as they were all right when they stood on our floor. In order that there shall be no further criticism on this point, we have instructed the factory not to ship any Carbolic until it has crystallized.

In regard to quality, the General Superintendent of the Heyden Chemical Company stated to our Chief Engineer, Mr. Mason, that the quality of the stuff we are now shipping is fine and perfectly satisfactory.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Trust

May 31st. 1916.

Mr. Henry Seymour,
544 Caledonian Road,
Holloway, N.,
London,
England.

Dear Sir:

I received your favor of the 14th instant, and also a copy of the current number of "Sound Wave", for which please accept my thanks. I am very glad indeed to learn that you and your friends are still enthusiastic for the blue amberol record. I think you will have no reason to change your opinion, as we are all the time seriously striving to improve the quality.

Let me thank you for calling my attention to the eccentric behavior of the records upon the mandrel. Our people here say that this eccentricity is due to poor reaming of the plaster paris. I will investigate and see why we do not use the metallic rings.

Yours very truly,

Tariff

May 31.

Tariff Commission League,
1332 First National Bank Building,
Chicago, Ill.

Attention of Mr. H. H. Gross.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your favor of the 20th instant, let me say that I believe in universal and compulsory military education for every young man above eighteen years of age. The first period to be for six months and thereafter one month for each year for six years.

I would not complicate this with any rewards or schooling as suggested by you.

Yours very truly,

270
698

June 3rd. 1916.

Mr. H. B. Brougham,
% Public Ledger,
Independence Square,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Brougham:

In reply to your favor of the 30th ultimo, let me say that any good motion picture camera taking forty pictures per second could be used, and the right picture from the many exposures could be selected and enlarged for the purpose you mention.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

June 1st. 1916.

Mr. F. M. Babcock, Social Secretary,
Hon. John Wanamaker,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Babcock:

I received your favor of the 27th ultimo. For the last four or five weeks I have been engaged on a night and day campaign covering very important experiments, and I cannot leave the laboratory just now, nor am I sure as to when I can get away. Can you come over to the Laboratory and see me? I have a private room to which we can go and talk freely and in perfect confidence.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

June 2nd. 1916.

Mr. W. Herman Greul, Secretary,
Committee of Ten,
52 Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 29th ultimo, and also your telegram came to hand. As requested by you I sent a telegram to the Secretary of War. It was a pretty strong one, perhaps too strong, but I am mad clear through to think that a American should be so ignorant as to be connected, directly or indirectly, with such an astounding proposal.

The greatest curse that a workman has to contend with is an inefficiently managed shop, and yet workmen cannot see it.

Yours very truly,

279

June 2nd. 1916.

Mr. A. E. Kennelly,
℅ Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Kennelly:

Your kind note of the 27th ultimo is much appreciated, as well as the invitation to attend the opening ceremony and banquet of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on June 13th and 14th.

For some weeks past I have been extremely busy day and night on some very important investigations that are of vital interest to my business. I am right in the midst of the work, and it is out of the question for me to be away from the Laboratory just now.

I would like to attend the affair, but am obliged to deny myself the privilege and pleasure.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Mod

June 2nd. 1916.

Mlle. Alice Verlet,
637 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mademoiselle:

I hope you will not think that I have been in any way negligent because I have not answered your favor of the 18th ultimo before this. The fact is Mr. Edison has been so busy day and night improving the quality and output of the disc records that we have been obliged to hold a great many other matters in suspension. He has been working about 140 hours a week, which, as you will see, leaves very little time for sleep, and sometimes he has been unable to look at his mail for a week at a time.

I am afraid you are going to be disappointed in this letter. Mr. Edison's whole nature is so intensely practical that it seems impossible for him to thoroughly appreciate the artistic nature and temperament. On the other hand, the predominant part of your nature is highly artistic, and I suppose it is difficult for you to understand the intensely practical.

Mr. Edison finds himself personally unable to deal with the details of the matters related in your letter, but he has had a talk with Mr. Walter Miller about the whole matter, and wishes me to express his hope that you will be able to get along with his people, as he is obliged to depend on them entirely to carry out the necessary arrangements.

Mr. Edison also wishes me to say to you that he hopes you will be with us always as one of our artists.

With kindest regards, and all good wishes, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Wm. Hollnagel

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

536

June 5th. 1916.

Hon. B. R. Tillman,
U. S. Senate,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Tillman:

I was somewhat disappointed at the action of the House Naval Committee in not suggesting a little more money for the Experimental Laboratory.

The plans were made for a works which, when completed and fully equipped, would cost five millions of dollars, but the minimum construction would cost not less than one and a half millions. It will require at least half a million after completion of the minimum to lay in a supply of materials and start operating.

For quick action, it is necessary to have a considerable stock of supplies of every kind in order that there shall be no delay when the Naval authorities want results quickly, especially if the Laboratory is to work 24 hoursdaily with three shifts of men, making it possible to accomplish in thirty days what would generally require three months with one shift of men. In fact, with the tools proposed and the supplies I believe it could be reduced to fifteen days.

As to the amount of work to be done and the extension of buildings and machinery to the full extent of the plans and the further sums of money required, all this will, of course, depend upon the demands made by the Naval authorities.

If the United States of America desires that its fighting machinery be kept up to date and not excelled or even approached by that of any other Nation, so as to get machinery that has been thoroughly tested and standardized and so that duplicates can be obtained at low costs from competative manufacturing establishments, then the Experimental Laboratory is the only possible way this object can be attained, but whatever you do, vote at least two million. If this is impossible it would be better to drop the thing altogether.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

June 6th. 1916.

Mme. Elsa Gregori,
1482 Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mme. Gregori:

I received your favor of the first instant, and have delayed replying to same until the trial records of Signor Galileo Gasparri were received and shown to Mr. Edison.

I find that a report has been sent to Mr. W. H. Miller, the Manager of our Recording Department in New York City, and undoubtedly he has communicated with you in the matter.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Taft

June 5th. 1916.

Miss Anna E. Chase,
75 Douglas Street,
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 27th ultimo has been received, and in reply let me say that the statement printed on the slip of paper enclosed in your letter was never made by me.

Yours very truly,

Trust

June 5th. 1916.

Miss J. G. Hoey,
% The Cairo,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 30th ultimo has been received and I beg to assure you that I am always ready to consider suggestions from our friends, and they are always accepted in the spirit in which they are offered. I very much appreciate your kind interest in the Diamond Disc Phonograph.

Let me say in regard to an automatic winder that we must get power from some source to wind up the mechanism of the instrument, and just now we are trying out an electrical motor for that purpose. There are many more difficulties about this than you think, but we are keeping at it, and trust that we may finally get good results.

As to the scratching sound on some of the records, let me say that we have recently made a change in the material used in their manufacture, and I think you will find that the records which will come out in the Fall of this year will be far better in that respect than those previously made.

Yours very truly,

June 5th. 1916.

The Heyden Chemical Works,
135 William Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

I regret to learn from your favor of the 31st ultimo that there have been any leaking cans forwarded to you from my Phenol Plant. I requested the Chief Engineer to investigate this matter, and he communicated with your factory. It seems that there has been a few cans that have leaked, but they were all right when they stood on our floor.

I have rather come to the conclusion that the trouble has been that the Phenol was delivered to your truck drivers before it had properly crystallized, and perhaps there may have been a little rough handling, which started the seams in the cans.

However, I have given instructions to the factory to hold the material until it has solidified, and have also asked our people to give special attention to inspecting each can.

Trusting that you will have no further inconvenience in this respect, I remain,

Yours very truly,

June 7th. 1916.

Mr. Ambrose F. Randolph, Sec'y.,
Old Time Telegraphers Association of New Brunswick,
45 Delevan Street,
New Brunswick, N. J.

Dear Sir:

I have received your favor of the 1st instant, for which please accept my thanks. Allow me to express my appreciation of the compliment that has been paid me in electing me an honorary member of the Old Time Telegraphers Association of New Brunswick.

I take pleasure in signifying my acceptance and beg you will extend my expressions of thanks and appreciation to your association.

Yours very truly,

255

June 7th. 1916.

Mr. D. H. Opdyke,
% Woodward Iron Company,
Woodward, Ala.

Dear Mr. Opdyke:

I received your favor of the 1st instant and would have replied sooner, but unfortunately was unable to do so because I was waiting to hear from the Benzol which Mitsui & Company turned over to us in drums, for which we are to let them have 10,000 gallons pure Benzol from the Woodward Plant.

I suppose you are perhaps wondering how it happened. The fact is, Mitsui & Company bought some Benzol from another concern, and had it sold, but the customer went back on them, and railroad demurrage was eating them up. They asked Mr. Edison if he would accept the lot, which is about 10,000 gallons and let them (Mitsui & Company) take in exchange 10,000 gallons from the Woodward Plant.

The Benzol in drums only just came in to our place at Silver Lake. It is all right, therefore, for you to let Mitsui & Company have 10,000 gallons, and then you will continue shipping to us as usual.

I have telegraphed asking you to ship a carload of Solvent Naphtha to Bayway Chemical Company, Bayway, N. J., and to have it free from water. I hope that you have been able to make an early shipment of this.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

405

June 9th. 1916.

Mr. Mark Workman, President,
Dominion Iron & Steel Company,
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Mr. Workman:

I am sorry for the delay in the matter of the contract. I wrote you a note about the cause of it a few days ago. There has been a little delay on both sides, but the spirit of the agreement is being carried out by shipments and payments for Benzol from your plant, It remains, therefore, only to settle upon the terms of the contract.

The agreement that your Company submitted was not quite in accordance with the arrangement covered by the understanding between Mr. Plummer and myself. That understanding was to the effect that I should take 20,000 gallons of Benzol a month from February to December, 1916 at 25¢ per gallon and an additional 5,000 gallons for the same period at 59¢ per gallon. This did not disturb the option contract for the remainder of the three years.

I have, therefore, had the contract re-drawn by my Legal Department and enclose two copies herewith, together with the agreement submitted by your Company.

If agreeable, therefore, will you please sign this new agreement in duplicate and send it to me, and I will return one copy to you duly executed by myself.

Yours very truly,

Enclosures.

June 9th. 1916.

The Heyden Chemical Works,
135 William Street,
New York City. Attention of Mr. G. Simon

Gentlemen:

I received your favor of the sixth instant referring further to your complaint about Carbolic Acid ariving at your factory in some cases with leaky cans. This matter has disturbed me quite a little, and I had the matter thoroughly investigated.

After a good deal of investigation we traced the trouble back to the manufacturers of the sheet iron cans. It appears that the manufacturers had recently commenced to make these cans entirely by machinery, instead of making them by hand as they formerly did, and we convinced them on experiment that the machine made can was not as good as the hand made can. We explained to them what a lot of trouble it has caused us, and they have agreed now to furnish us with the hand made cans. These will be coming along now in a few days, and I sincerely hope that you will not experience any further trouble on this account.

In the meantime, let me say that I have instructed our Accounting Department to send you a credit for the 45 pounds shortage covered by your memorandum of the sixth instant.

Yours very truly,

447
617

June 9th. 1916.

D. Van Nostrand Company,
25 Park Place,
New York City.

Attention of Mr. Speirs.

Dear Mr. Speirs:

Mr. Edison wishes to obtain a book called "The Natural method of voice production" by Dr. Floyd S. Muckey. It is published by Charles Scribner & Sons. Will you please get this and send it to me.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Phenol

585

June 10th. 1916.

Mr. Ben. Hollander,
c/o A. Hollander & Sons,
Newark, N. J.

My dear Mr. Hollander:

I am sending to you under separate cover (by Registered Mail so that it will not get lost) a sample of Para Amido Phenol, which is marked "Special". The reason I marked it special is because it represents the Para Amido Phenol that we will manufacture regularly when the new plant is built.

This material ought to be very good, for it is very carefully made, and is very pure and strong. I want to ask you to kindly have a special test made of this sample, apart from everything else and let me know as quickly as you can how you find it.

You will be helping yourself as well as Mr. Edison if you have this done right away. He is working hard to hurry the erection of the plant, so that you and others may be able to get a supply of this material.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

391

June 10th. 1916.

Mr. Stanley Doggett,
99 John Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Let me say in reply to your favor of the 7th instant that I cannot reduce the price of the Aniline Oil supplied to you under our contract, for the reason that at the time I made the contract with you my supplies had been bought at very high prices.

Business could not possibly be conducted on any such basis such as you suggest in your letter. You were quite well aware that the manufacturing of Aniline Oil was a gamble, and you had as good a chance as I had to place contracts to cover yourself up to the extent of your purchases.

Yours very truly,

455

519

June 12th. 1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
% Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Sir:

I sent you the following telegram this morning:

"Please get ready for shipment five thousand gallons pure toluol in drums. See drums are clean. Mailing shipping instructions today."

Will you please ship these 5,000 gallons of pure Toluol to E. I. Du Pont de Nemours & Company, Barksdale, Wis. Please mark each drum as follows:

Order No. 30050-A-Req. 9995 1/2 - HB.

Please be very particular to comply with the above and make shipment at your earliest possible convenience. If 5,000 gallons do not make quite two carloads, please add sufficient in additional drums to make up two carloads, but please do not allow it to run much over 5,500 or 5,600 gallons.

Yours very truly,

Fact

June 13th. 1916.

Mr. John J. Carty,
15 Dey Street,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Carty:

I feel somewhat guilty in having unconsciously misled you in regard to my participating in the program for tomorrow night.

For the last seven weeks I have been concentrating practically all my time and attention, day and night, on a special campaign that was necessary to be conducted immediately and without cessation. In addition to this and the care of my other large business interests, it suddenly became necessary for me to plan and commence the installation of another chemical plant, in order to protect myself in other directions.

I am busy with my Engineers and Chemists, and have planned to leave my time open, so as to be able to go to my chemical plant at Silver Lake day or night. I got mixed up on the date of the Reunion of the Technology Alumni, and had disposed of my time otherwise.

I regret very much to disappoint you, and trust that you will kindly excuse me under the circumstances. All I could have done, any way, would have been to speak a few words in the telephone. My deafness has grown more pronounced, and I could not hear any message transmitted. I am afraid the embarrassment of it would have made me feel quite nervous.

I am deeply impressed with the wonderful magnitude of your undertaking for tomorrow night. It is certainly a great engineering feat, and I want to offer you my congratulations upon such a tremendous achievement.

With kind regards and all good wishes, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

482
582

June 13th. 1916.

American Oil & Supply Company,
52 Lafayette Street,
Newark, N. J.

Gentlemen:

I have laid out and am now installing an addition to my chemical plant, in which I am going to make Para Amido Phenol. As far as I can see now, we ought to be able to begin deliveries in five or six weeks, and I want to assure you that the quality of the Para Amido Phenol that I will furnish will be equal to the best.

Yours very truly,

Thos A. Edison

June 12th. 1916.

Mme. Jane Arctowska,
% Polish Victims Relief Fund,
33 West 42nd Street,
New York City.

Dear Madam:

I have received your favor of the fifth instant, and regret to say that I shall not be able to accede to your request. The fact is, I am withdrawing as much as possible from matters of a public or semi-public nature, as the appearance of my name on any committee brings upon me an avalanche of mail which adds to my already heavy burden. Let me say that I shall be glad to send $25.00 to the Polish Victims Relief Fund if I knew the proper person to whom it should be sent.

Yours very truly,

Fine

June 12th. 1916.

Mr. Harry L. Keefer and Mr. Samuel N. Keefer,
143 North Fifth Street,
Sunbury, Pa.

Dear young friends:

I received your favor of the first instant also copy of the May number of the "Sunburian High", as well as the copies of the Sunbury Daily Item. These are all very interesting, and helpful in making history of the first three wire plant, which was the one installed at Sunbury.

You have certainly been very persevering, and I congratulate you on the fact that you have done a good piece of work.

Concerning your desire to see me, let me say that if you are ever coming down this way, please call in and ask for Mr. Meadowcroft, and he will see to it that you have an opportunity of meeting me personally. Let me suggest, however, that you send Mr. Meadowcroft a line two days in advance of your coming so that he could notify you in case I could not be here.

Yours very truly,

406

June 13th. 1916.

Hon. B. R. Tillman,
U. S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Tillman:

I send you the enclosed printed matter which will be self-explanatory.

These attempts to prevent efficiency will be a serious thing for preparedness if they become law. They will hamper every Government work.

One of the greatest curses that a workman has to contend with is an inefficiently managed workshop. It is the efficient shop that makes profit and pays good wages and can afford to do so. There are many operations where, for instance, twenty motions are necessary to obtain a certain result. In late years, experts have been studying these motions and by certain changes have reduced them to eight or ten, as the case may be, and with less fatigue to the workman. Thus, the product is greatly cheapened by discarding useless motions. This saving increases the earnings and permits giving better wages, whereas the inefficient shop, not being able to compete, must reduce wages.

If this country is ever to have efficiency, such bills should in no event be passed.

Yours very truly,

570

656

June 14th. 1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New YorkCity.

Attention of Mr. Takaki.

Dear Mr. Takaki:

In regard to the two carloads of Benzol contained in drums, which we recently received from you at our Silver Lake Plant, I am sorry to be obliged to make an unfavorable report. I have just received the following from the Manager of our Plant at Silver Lake:

> "Yesterday we concluded unloading two cars of Benzol in drums shipped us by Mitsui & Company for the use of the Plant here. A number of the drums are partly filled, some are empty, and the majority of them show leakage from long handling. A representative sample of the entire lot was given to Mr. Kammerhoff for test, and it shows that 90% distilled at 2.3, which is a very low grade and lower than we have been accustomed to use for Aniline and impossible for use in Carbolic Acid.
>
> "When our storage tanks are in condition to receive the same, I will advise you the cost of handling the Benzol under these conditions, as compared with tank cars, and as accurately as possible an estimated value of this grade of Benzol as compared with what we used in Aniline".

You will notice from the above that they unloaded the drums from the two cars, but they have not yet emptied the drums into our tanks. As soon as this has been done I shall give you a full report, as I suppose you will want to make claim against the people who sold you the Benzol.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Trust

June 13th. 1916.

Mr. T. B. Shoemaker, Secretary,
Olympic Park Automobile Racing Association,
Olympic Park,
Newark, N. J.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the ninth instant, and also to thank you for your kind invitation to witness the automobile races at night on June 17th.

I shall hope to have the pleasure of accepting your invitation, and my wife and I will come if we possibly can.

Yours very truly,

June 15th. 1916.

Mr. W. H. Parsons,
17 Charles Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 14th instant has been received. You ask for the fur brown, but we are not producing it as yet. We are just making an addition to our plant, and expect to be turning out the fur brown, which is called Para Amido Phenol, in about five or six weeks.

We are producing Paraphenylenediamine right along. This is somewhat similar to what was called Ursol D, but ours is very much stronger. If you are in need of any of this, please let us know how much and we will quote you a price. Paraphenylenediamine is used for dyeing furs black.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

June 16th. 1916.

Woodward Iron Company,
Woodward, Ala.

Attention of Mr. Herbert E. Smith.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 12th instant asking the present status of our Naphthaline contract has been received. I had hoped before now to have been able to make a contract for a year, but so far the matter has not been brought to a successful issue.

At the present moment we have no contract for Naphthaline Flakes, but I have no doubt we shall be able to arrange a contract as soon as we can arrive at a definite basis as to quality. I am afraid the trouble has been that we have been making it too fast. By so doing, the product is not of the pure whiteness which the market demands. I understand that there is quite a large quantity of Naphthaline on hand now, and have had some samples sent up, but the samples are partly white and partly yellow, and this would not meet the demand of the market for a uniform white product.

I have had a talk with Mr. Mason about this, and have requested him to ask Mr. Opdyke to re-sublime the whole lot, and get it ready for shipment. As soon as this is ready, I can sell it, but unfortunately we have passed the peak of the high prices, and while we shall be able to get a fair price, it will not be quite as good as we have been getting.

I regret to say that the shipment of Naphthaline that was made to the Pacific Coast was off color, and the customer out there refused to receive it. The freight one way amounted to over $500.00, and, of course, its return would have involved paying as much more, I, therefore requested our people to get busy and try and arrange matters otherwise. We agreed to an arbitration which resulted more favorably than we had reason to expect, as the matter has been settled on payment of $516.10, comprised of the following items:

Allowance on 36,110 lbs. Naphthaline at 1¢ per lb.	$361.10
Arbitration fees to Mr. W. P. Cohoe	125.00
Arbitration fee for the umpire	5.00
For incidental expenses	25.00
	$516.10

I am willing to stand my half of this, and presume that you will be willing to stand the other half.

580

I sincerely trust that this will end the matter of allowances on Naphthaline. Of course, we are all new at the business, and perhaps we may consider we have gotten off cheaply, as we have been getting good prices for the Naphthaline.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

535

June 19th. 1916.

E. R. Squibb & Sons,
78 Beekman Street,
New York City. Attention of Mr. Weicker.

Dear Mr. Weicker:

Mr. Meadowcroft has shown me your favor of the 14th instant, which has received careful consideration.

You mention delays in receipt of the last two shipments, So far as we are concerned, there has been no delay. Our customer has been to send you samples from cans actually filled for you, and on receipt of favorable report from your Laboratory we have always made immediate shipments.

Now, in regard to the Carbolic which you have in stock, and which has been shipped to you at various times and charged at 77 1/2 cents, in accordance with our arrangement, I do not see how I can make any reduction in the price. It was made for you in good faith, when the cost of raw materials was exceedingly high. Really, I do not think you should ask me to make any adjustment. You should bear in mind that I was billing you with Carbolic Acid at 77 1/2 cents when other people were paying me $1.10 to $1.20 for the same kind of material, and it was being sold in the open market for $1.50 and more.

As to the fifteen drums which you say you have just received and find to contain red acid, will you please send me the numbers of these drums, and I will have an investigation made at once. Of course, if all these drums are found to contain Carbolic not up to standard we will take them back.

It would seem as if we have quite some difficulty in satisfying you entirely, and if it will not cause you inconvenience I am quite agreeable to your seeking a source of supply of Carbolic elsewhere, so far as future needs are concerned.

Yours very truly,

June 21, 1916.

New York Quinine & Chemical Works, Ltd.,
114 William Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

I have received your invoice dated June 16, 1916 covering 6300 pounds Aniline oil "Returned" but am entirely unable to understand why you did not receive and accept this shipment, it being a portion of the material contracted for by you under date of October 16, 1915.

I have refused to receive this shipment as the goods were purchased by and delivered to you under said contract and I have no interest in them except to receive payment therefor at the agreed price.

Will you please inform me why you are attempting to return this shipment, and greatly oblige.

Yours truly,

June 21st. 1916.

Miss Helen Scholder,
148 West 111th Street,
New York City.

Dear Miss Scholder:

I have received your note of the 19th instant, and must apologize for not having replied to your former letter. The trouble is Mr. Edison is on one of his night and day campaigns on improving the manufacturing technique of the record, and he has practically laid aside all other matters for the time being. It will, therefore, not be possible just now to get any final decision from him about your making a record.

Yours very truly,

June 21st. 1916.

Board of Health,
Bloomfield, N. J.

Gentlemen:

I write to inform you that we now have in successful operation our absorption towers at the the Aniline and Carbolic Plants at Silver Lake, N. J. Therefore, all our waste liquors now pass into the the sewer, and all gases through the absorption towers, and nothing objectionable passes from the plant.

Yours very truly,

Guest

June 20th. 1916.

Mr. S. D. Aravanis,
West Orange, N. J.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the 16th instant, let me say that all the property which we have here was purchased by us for further extensions of our factory. Therefore, if we should give away any portion of the property it would disturb our plans for the future.

I regret to say, therefore, that I shall not be able to donate to your cause a site for a church.

Yours very truly,

Frida

June 20th. 1916.

Mme. Frida Benneche,
% Hotel Wellington,
New York City.

Dear Madame:

I have received your favor of the 17th instant to which I can only say in reply that there is evidently a misunderstanding.

We have never issued any records of selections sung by you. You recorded one selection sometime ago, but this was not accepted by our Committee, and no replicas were ever made.

It is true that in our record catalogue of November, 1915, your name appeared among the "Artists who make records", but this was purely a mistake on the part of our Advertising Department, where catalogues are made up.

As to the letter from Mr. J. E. McCraken, Manager of the Edison Shop in San Francisco, I cannot offer any explanation at all. He has no Edison records bearing a selectionof yours, as we have never issued any. It is up to him to offer an explanation of his letter to you.

Personally, I regret that any such misunderstanding should have arisen, but as you will see it has been no fault of mine.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Thos A

June 20th. 1916.

Mr. A. L. Riker, Vice President,
The Locomobile Company of America,
Bridgeport, Conn.

Dear Mr. Riker:

In reply to yours of the 16th instant, let me say that I have just ordered a Locomobile Limousine, which I expect to use for a town car. I wanted a touring car having 11" dead clearance. The Simplex people say that they have one, or think they can get one that answers this specification.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

P.S. Just closed for Simplex the [illegible]

Paid

June 23rd. 1916.

Eastman Kodak Company,
Rochester, N. Y.

Attention of Mr. C. W. Markus.

Gentlemen:

We are getting along very nicely with our plant for producing Para Amido Phenol, and it looks now as though we would be ready to commence deliveries within the next four or five weeks. Our people are preparing a sample of white Para Amido Phenol, such as is used for photographic purposes, and I think it will be ready in the early part of next week.

We have been selling most of our chemical products through the American Oil & Supply Company of Newark, N. J. and this has saved me from a great deal of the usual details. I mention this fact because you will probably be waited on next week by Mr. W. F. Hoffman, or Dr. T. J. Parker of that Company, who will discuss the matter of Para Amido Phenol with you and at the same time present the above named sample of a white product.

Yours very truly,

Taft

June 23rd. 1916.

The World,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

I consider it an honor to contribute my donation to the Statue of Liberty Illumination Fund. Every American should rally to the support of such a patriotic movement. Liberty enshrouded in darkness every night can never be the inspiration she should be. I earnestly hope that every success will attend the World's campaign for the $30,000. fund.

Yours very truly,

606

June 24th. 1916.

New York Quinine and Chemical Works, Limited,
114 William Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 22nd instant has been received. I must confess I cannot understand why the June sixth shipment of Aniline Oil should be found unsatisfactory.

I am exceedingly busy, and, therefore, could not get over to your works, but I would very much like to have demonstrated to me personally the unsuitability of the rejected deliveries. I should be very glad to have your Chemist come over to Orange to make the demonstration, if he will kindly do so.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

232

June 24th. 1916.

Dr. W. Knecht,
47 rue du Righi,
Zurich, Switzerland.

Dear Sir:

Your esteemed favor of the 25th ultimo to Mr. Meadowcroft, enclosing your formula for the preparation of Para Amido Phenol has been handed to me. Allow me to thank you for your kind attention to the letter that was written to you on this subject, and for sending me this formula.

It happens, however, that I experimented several months ago with the process you describe, but was unable to obtain any commercially favorable results when I tried it on a comparatively large scale. I, therefore, discarded this experiment, and am now making my Para Amido Phenol by another process (not electrolytic) which is quite certain and gives a good yield.

I shall, of course, regard your letter and formula as confidential.

Yours very truly,

541

June 26th. 1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City. Attention of Mr. Takaki.

Gentlemen:

Once more we unfortunately got in trouble with a car of Naphthaline Flakes, which was shipped out to the Pacific Coast on the order of the American Oil & Supply Company,

When the car arrived at San Francisco the customer refused to receive it on the ground that it was not pure white. The freight one way was about $520.00, and it would have cost that much more to bring it back. The American Oil & Supply Company tried to sell it out there, but were not successful, and finally it was agreed that the matter should be submitted to arbitration.

The arbitration was had, and we were fortunate enough to escape at what we consider a reasonable figure, namely, 1¢ per pound, besides the cost of the arbitration. The total amount being $516.10. We, therefore, send you herewith the charge bill of the American Oil & Supply Company for this amount. We have communicated with the Woodward Iron Company and explained the whole matter to them. They have agreed with us in taking this action, and have given their consent that one-half of this $516.10 shall be charged to them. Will you please, therefore, charge them accordingly.

Mr. Edison believes he has now arranged matters so that there will be no repetition of trouble on account of Naphthaline Flakes, as he has given instructions to re-sublime all that are made at Woodward. This re-subliming brings out the material to a pure white.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

Print

June 28th. 1916.

Mr. Harry L. Tyler,
4 Concert Street,
Corning, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Tyler:

I have received your favor of the 24th instant, which has been read with a great deal of interest and gratification.

Let me say to you in reply that there are many difficulties in the way of bringing the accompaniment out in strong relief in most music, especially with our system of recording.

Recently I have made some changes in the system, upon which I am experimenting, and which in time may permit me to carry out anything in the line you mention.

Yours very truly,

First

June 29th, 1916.

Union National Bank,

Newark, N. J.

Gentlemen:

I would be pleased to have you open a letter of credit for 6 months, payable $300. per month to Marion E. Oecer, Freiburg, Germany. Kindly notify me when these payments are made and I will send you check for same. Kindly transmit same by wireless.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

General Letterbook Series
Letterbook, LB-113 (1916)

This letterbook covers the period June-September 1916. Most of the correspondence is by Edison and William H. Meadowcroft. Included are letters pertaining to Edison's benzol absorbing plants and other chemical manufacturing interests. Other documents concern the technical and commercial development of Edison's phonograph business, his reading habits, and research at the West Orange laboratory. Among the correspondents are General Electric executive Charles A. Coffin, U.S. Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, industrialists Harvey S. Firestone and Samuel Insull, economist Irving Fisher, and representatives of Mitsui & Co.

The spine is stamped "Letters" and is marked "T.A.E. From June 30 - 1916- To Sept. 12 -1916- ." The number "51" also appears on the spine. The book contains 698 numbered pages and an index. Approximately 10 percent of the book has been selected.

Amer. Oil & Supply Co 47-48-56-57-75-111-112-152-153-169-170-171-196-267-268- (continued)
Andrews, W. S. 105- 174-
Amer. Can Co., 132-
Automobile Bureau of Amer. 151-
Angehr, W. 219-
Apatow, J. J. 256-316-
Abercrombie Fitch Co., 285-
Abercrombie, D. F. 275-
Amer. Oil & Supply Co., 304-403-404-406-407-419-431-460-472-560-561-562-583-593-596- (CONTINUED)
Ambler, S. B. 417-
Adams, C. W. 594-
Anderson, Col. A. 595-
Amer. Printing Co., 614-653-
Amer. Oil & Supply Co., 654-652-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V

B

Barrell, A. C.	5- 25-
Bradley, H. N.	7-
Bacon	8-9-135-155-142-210-222-288-306-340-359-369-443-563 (CONTINUED)
Baker, Mrs. C. W.	10-
Bean, Miss V. L.	11-442-
Beckwith, A. T.	23-
Blissfield Robe & Tanning Co.,	24-
Brougham, H. B.	45-
Boyd's City Dispatch	55-493-
Beirne, J.	58-
Butcher, J. V.	59-
Braeburn Steel Co.,	76-
Brown, H. L.	77-
Bethamley Chem. Colors and Extracts,	95-
Burke, J.	96-
Bradley & Co.,	134-
Ballauf & Bettisont	154-
Brower, Mrs. E.	173-
Bateman, G.	175-
Brigham, Miss A.	179-
Babson's Statistical Org.	220-
Bailey, W.	221-
Blagden-Vaughn & Co.,	223-
Borosky Fur Dressing & Dyeing	305-
Birge, W. W.	318-
Birdsall, S. H.	326-
Boro, Chemical Co.,	327-386-429-565-
Brownell, K. J.	370-
Blackton, J. S.	371-
Bourdon, G.	432-
Buchheim, W. A. B.	433-
Burger, Miss E. N.	434-
Blakock, L. C.	444-
Brycylee, J.	448-
Boen, L. C.	455-
Brennan, J. J.	475-541-
Baker, D.	492-

Barnetto & Co.	518-
Bacon, J.	564-657-
Burk & James	584-
Bera, R. J.	625
Borgeo, W. M.	644-
Barnett & Co., J.	655-
Brian, W. S.	666-
Babbitt, W. D.	672-
Brown, B. J.	673-
Bleyer, C. E.	692-

ABC

C

Chatham Chem. Corp.	12-75-289-
Crater, R. M.	26-
Clark Paper & Mfg. Co.,	77-
Clevenger, C. C.	97-
Canadian Explosives Co.,	114-227-
Civilian Paraphernalia Comm.	115-
[illegible]	136-
Chandler, J. R.	156-225-283
Corona, C.	157-
Colonial Steel Co.,	155-
Carter & Co., R. K.	177-
Crowther, S.	204-
Corning Glass Co,	211-
Coleman, M. E.	224-
~~[illegible]~~	~~[illegible]~~
Culley, Mrs. [illegible]	226-
Conner, J. W.	273-
Cambria Steel Co.,	282-
~~Chandler, J. R.~~	~~283~~
Colburn, J. R.	284-
[illegible] Brothers	290-319-372-
Colburn, Miss C. T.	303-641-
Creel, G.	328-
Coombs, F. H.	329-
Chivington, J. L.	330-
Carver, C. E.	341-
Chambers Music House	354-
[illegible], J. E.	36[illegible]-
Coffin, C. A.	365-
Crystal Crossing Mills Co.,	405-
[illegible], J.	452
Circulo Instructico Electricing,	499-
Clarke Music House	495-
Carlee & Son,	512-
Calder, M. L.	529-
Clarke, A. J.	542-
Conradi, Miss M.	549-

Carns, Mrs. J. B.	597-
Catal, G.	598-
Cochrane, W. F.	618-
Campbell, H. M.	658-

A B C D

D

Du Pont de Nemours Co. Ed	13-27-03
Drake, S. W.	28-
Disston & Sons, H.	80-
Doggett, S.	51-205-246-315-385-418-474-579-631-
Dowling, W. S.	103½-
Decatur, J. G.	176-
Dolph, Mrs. K. M.	197-
Daniels, Hon. J.	228-543
Donatt, O.	257-
Dougherty, C. J.	409-
Dorris, W.	445-
le Doux, Jr. C. C.	465-
Davis, H. E.	453-
Dorrance, H. B.	484-
Diamond, A.	530-
de Vos, L.	545-
Dept. of Pub. Chem. Lamp Wks.	552-609-
Davies Co., E. G.	623-
Dye Products & Chem. Co.,	650-
Dominion D. & A. Co.,	652-

Elyria Enameled Products Co 49-
Elterich, C. 60-
England, J. W. 116-269-339-387-
Eisler, G. 117-
Eichelberger, J. [illegible] 118-
Edmunds & Co., [illegible] 229-496-577-660-[illegible]
Essex County Country Club 244-
Edison Portland Cement Co. 245-[illegible]-[illegible]-647-
Edwards, J. W. 373-
Edmonds, R. H. 388-
Elect. Rubber Reclaiming Co. Ltd. 485-531-
Eulberg, W. C. 600-
Evangelista, D. 645-
Edson, Miss M. D. 659-

Farrar, H. 14-
Firestone, H. S. 29-
Froehlich, J. H. 30-
Firestone Tire Co. 46-
Frazar & Co. 50-374-
Fisher Chem. Co. 119-182-546
Fiske, H. 145-
Howard, W. J. 180-
Hison, C. 181-
Felcas, J. B. 183-
Forbes, B. C. 230-
French, G. 247-
Farley, J. R. 258-307-
Fayed Fobia Lighting Co. 311-
Fleming, A. P. M. 302-
Fredericks, F. C. 331-
Freeman, C. D. 375-
Frost, W. G. 379-
Friedman, J. 40-
Fisher, J. 420-
Flache, H. C. 421-
[illegible] 467-566-
Forma, H. [illegible] 497-
Fall, C. S. 532-
Fleichter, V. S. 533-
[illegible] 544
Finley, J. 575-
Farwell, C. R. O. 599-
Fitzburgh, W. 601-
Fagley, [illegible] G. 602-
Foote, Mrs. Y. [illegible] M. 636-

Gen. Elect Co., 51-121-342-352-
Gourdon, J. R. 61-
Lee S. W. 95-
Grand Rapids Gas Light Co. 99-
Green, T. H. 120-206-
[illegible] 137-195-259-
Grant, C. C. 159-
Greaves, B. C. 160-
Leiner, L. C. 248-
Gilbert & Barker Mfg. Co., 274-
Garner, J. H. 320-445-
Goolsby, Miss M. E. 396-
Gulyahr, [illegible] 462-
Gray, [illegible] 499
[illegible] 513-
Graves, [illegible] 527-
Greul, J. H. 567-
Gibson, W. W. 675-

G

Huron Fur Dressing & Dying Co., 31-83-199-422-
Hartman, S. L. 32-
Huizdil, H. 33-
Hymans, N. S. 52-
Herman & Herman 62-184-577-
Hurlbut, H. 63-
Hobson, Houghton & Co., 82-
[illegible] 100-
Hallman & Co., [illegible] 122-
Healy, 123-
High, Dr. R. L. 138-
Heing Co., H. J. 155-
Hickert, Hon. J. W. 249-
Hanson & VanWinkle Co., 250-
Hadjopoulos & Sperco, 287-[illegible]-
Hillsdale Robe & Tanning Co., 332-341-[illegible]-
Hoff, 361-
Harvey, J. 362-
Heyden Chemical Co., 446-521-
Hiller Bros. Co., 486-
Hth, C. B. 500-
Hoskins, [illegible] 505-
Hanlea, [illegible] 514-
Hery, J. B. 515-
Hard, C. J. 534-
Hassenplug, W. L. 547-
Hughes, L. 576-
Hack, [illegible] 623-
Howard, J. T. 627-
Horne, W. E. 661-
Hosenbalg Co., 662-
Houston, Miss M. S. 683-

Jackson Co., H. 1-
Insull, S. 15-
Ingram & Bell 84-
Innis, Speiden & Co. 161-
Irwin, Mrs. L. M. 251-
Ireland, J. H. 555-

Jordan & Co., A. 85-101-[illegible]-
[illegible] 124-
Jepson, C. 343-
Jennings, [illegible] 376-
Jennings, W. [illegible] 435-
[illegible]son, [illegible] 503-
[illegible]stone, [illegible] 6[illegible]-
[illegible], [illegible] 51-646-

J

Knight M. A.	86-
Kimball, H. M.	200-
Kelly, Mrs. J.	250-
Klipstein & Co., A.	351-411-
Keith Car Co.	342-343-437-
Kimble, W. T.	449-
Kelan, J.	476-
Kendall, C. E.	501-
Kesdeiner, J. M.	[illegible]
Kurtzad, [illegible] E.	535-
Kerschner, J. M.	536-563-565-
Kramer, E.	607-

K

(CONTINUED)

Lazard, L. 16-34-106-139-231-232-233-293-294-295-310-311-364-377-394-436-
Lozier, R. T. 17-643-676-
Levor, L. S. 18-
Lynn, J. 64-
Linham & Moore 87-272-
Lawson, Mrs. A. K. 88-
Leipzig Fur Dying & Dressing Wks 140-309-363-
Lohman, Miss A. L. 270-
Lindley, Hon. J. H. 308-
Long, J. C. 333-
Longyear, E. J. 344-
Laurens Stair Wks. 355-
Lighton, W. R. 378-
Loomis, E. 423-
Lambie, H. D. 437-
Lancaster, Mrs. P. S. 456-
Lazard, L. 463-464-
Liebold, E. G. 457-
Liscomb, W. O. 522-
La Fiebo, J. 537-
Lancaster Chem. Co. 550-
Lyons, J. B. 663-
Lorraine Mfg. Co. 664-
Lafradeli Comm. 677-

Miller, Dr. H. 14-163-
Maxwell, P. 35-
Meyer Dye & Chem. Co., 53-235-
Mitsui & Co., 65-104-141-564-615-678-
Miller, L. 67-
Mayer Dye & Chem. Co., 84-
Markus, C. W. 107-
Martin, E. S. 150-207-
Moore Chem. Co. 162-322-430-539-
Mundy, Miss M. E. 212-
Mannetho, M. 234-
Marsden - Lewell Corp. 236-253-297-570-
Myer, Miss H. S. 252-
Marsden-
Morgan, Miss B. E. 260-
Meyer, Dr. E. W. 281-
Mann, J. T. 312-
Milestone, D. M. 334-
Morgan, J. 479-
Myrowitz, S. B. 491-
Mercher, S. 523-
Masselink, L. P. 538-
Mineral Resources Corp. Inc. 621-
Myers & Co., F. W. 633-
Maclaughing, Dr. R. C. 635-
Mann, [illegible] 653-
Myers, Mme. G. C. 665-
Moore, J. A. 664-
Merkle, [illegible] 690-
Monnot, J. H. 693-

M

Mc Tammey, N.	66-120-
Mc Ice Company	296-
Mc Manis, J. J.	321-
Mc Cay, H. M.	350-
Mc Kesson & Robbins,	451-
Mc Donald, C. A.	477-
Mc Elroy, J. M.	557-
Mc Clavie, H. A.	585-
Mc Morran, C. O.	[illegible]

Mc

Newland, L. C. 36-
North Star Fur Dressing & Dying Wks. 37-144-
Neubauer, G. M. 90-188-
Nagelvoort, G. 113-680
N.Y. Quinine & Chem. Wks. 142-237-
Nobla, V. C. Co. 143-
Nat. Gum & Mica Co., 164-
Nomura, S. 345-
Nitro Powder Co., 412-
Neale, W. A. 534-
North Ward National Bank 580-
North, [illegible] 647-
Nat. Electrical Chem. Industries 648-
Neumann, J. 685-

Olson Bros.	214-
Oldyke, E. S.	211- 628- [illegible]
Oldyke, C. H.	278-313-345-457-578-616-649-

Parker, Dr. T. J.	6-68-165-201-374-
Poyser, Rev. H. C.	91-
Pfaudler Co., The	145-
Pan Amer. Comm. Corp.	146-
Paler, F. A.	202-
Pictorial News Co., The	215-
Pecke Co., W. E.	238-
Perrine, J. J.	255-357-
Perrine, J. B.	314-
Press-Illustrating Service	335-
Phelan, J. T.	405-
Pennsylvania Tank Lines	413-473-
Peels & Brewster	571-
Preston, Mrs. A. P.	576-
Pommer, A. P.	578-
Pohl, Mrs.	571-
Palmer, J. J.	586-
Pike, M. P.	590-
Parsons, D.	631-

P

Quality Turmeric	554-	

Reliable Fur Dressing & Dyeing Co.	2-
Ridgway, R. S.	20-
Rathbun, R.	38-
Richling, J.	69-
Rand, C. G.	108-
Ross, P. H. W.	126-
Ryan, S. C.	127-
Ribble, A. H.	189-
Rosen, H.	239-
Raymer, F.	365-
Rutledge, Miss E.	450-
Ricker, Mrs E.	455-
Ryder, Dr. J.	466-
Ruggenback, J. A.	489-
Reedy, E. L.	505-
Reit, E. W.	509-
Ramsey, J. B.	517-
Richards, Mrs D. K.	524-
Radcliff, K. G.	610-
Ranedell, [illegible]	636-
Roth, C. F.	666-

Schmulowitz, Starobin & Dubin	3- 262-424
Squibb & Sons, E. R.	21-187-203-396-~~[illegible]~~-667-
Stiefvater, Miss J. H.	39-
Shepley, S. H.	40-
Sutton & Co., S. M.	41- 687-
Saunders, E. A.	42-
Stuart & Peterson Co.,	54-
Shutt, A.	70-
Stoneware Co. The U.S.	92-
Schwager, C.	102-
Sloane, Mrs. J. E.	109-
Stein, Hirsh & Co.,	110- 1[illegible]3- 209-336-356-397-415-573-
Schutz, E. G.	128-
Sloane, J. E.	147-
Schraeder, [illegible]	148-
Snow, G.	149-
Swain, A. L.	166-
Schultz, G. J.	167-
Steiger Terra Cotta and Pottery Co.	186-266-
Shriver & Co., J.	190-
Sloane, C. O'C.	191-452-
Straus, M. L.	192-
Smith, Hon. G. O.	205-
Schwab & Co., M.	213-695-
Skaulden, C.	216-
Silzer, G. C. S.	240-506-
Sorenson, J. P.	241-
Simson, M.	263-
Sidio Co., of Amer. The	264- 299-
Schroeder, H.	265- 453-
Singer, B.	275- 337-
Suderly, P.	277-
Sutter, E.	300-
Shepard, W. G.	301-
Stewart, O. J.	324-
Shuter, S.	346-
Stillwell & Gladding	347-366-652-

Silverstone, M. E.	353-399-
Salman, F. M.	367-
Smith, Hinx French Co.,	380-
Stahl, B.	381-
Sawyer-Felder Co.,	382-
Sanders, S.	383-
Session, A. A.	398-
Speery, E. A.	400-
Sticht, B. M.	414-
Sarkar, D.	438-
Snyder, Mrs A.	467-
Smith, E. S.	468-
Smith, C. E.	469-
Swift Coloure Co.,	470-
Spencer, D. B.	480-
Slaghter, W.	481-
Strautz, C. O.	488-
Suddoth, F.	510-
Shaw, P. B.	558-
[illegible], Mrs M.	556-
Schneider, L.	573-
Sloane, Russell	579-
Second National Bank	581-
Sprake, C. H.	588-
Schaeffer, C. H.	591-
Summers, J. C.	592-
Sawyer, H. F.	617-650-
Steadman, J. M.	625-
Sparks, J. C.	634-696-
Scotland Neck Cotton Mills	640-
Sanderson, Rev. F.	668-
Solomon & Co., H. A.	679-680-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M Mc N O P Q R S T

Trades Reporting Bureau, The 4-217-
Taylor, Mrs. F. 71-
Tandater, A. 93-
Turpin, C. B. 94-
Trade News Service 129-694-
Travis, Mrs. 193-
Tatavall, J. B. 254-440-669-
Tirado, T. M. Y. 348-
Taiaki, S. 349-
Tornabelle Co. 425-
Thermos Bottle Co. 439-
Thomson, B. T. 557-
Turner & Hefler Co. 587-

T

U.S. Std. Chemical Co.,	271-
Union National Bank,	317-582-
United Press	401-
Union Petroleum Co.,	655-

Van Nostrand Co. D.	113-
Vidal, C.	323-
Vine, J. A. M.	411-
Vogl, O. Q. P.	507-
Valligny, [illegible]	525-
Van, Hon. W. S.	614-
Vanderpoel, D. & C.	620-
Van Sicklen, C.	624-
Vella, Dr. E.	670-

Western Fur Dressing & Dyeing Co. 22-195-
Wallace, F. A. 44-
Wade, F. K. 72-
Wellman, W. 73-454-
Wright, O. S. 79-
[illegible] 130-
[illegible] 131-242-
White, J. S. 168-
Whiting, F. A. 194-
Wolf, [illegible] M. 218-
Weinschenker & Son, J. 272-
Wells, W. H. 276-
Wilson, E. J. 325-
Warden, M. R. 384-
Williams [illegible] 402-
Whitehead, E. [illegible] 426-
Williams, Son, J. 427-
Wilkens, G. M. 435-
Whittaker, Mr & Mrs. M. T. 441-
Warner, E. 490-
Waterhouse, [illegible] 538-
Welford, J. J. 584-
[illegible] Chemical Co. [illegible]
[illegible] W. [illegible]
Weitendorf, [illegible] 651-
[illegible] F. [illegible] 651

Young, A. P. 243-279-338-
York Knitting Mills Co. 416-
Young, M. 529-
Young Co., H. L. 671-647-

Zentay, Miss M.	526-
Zabel Co. E.	612-

42

July 1st. 1916.

Miss Virginia L. Bean,
1820 Golden Hill Terrace,
El Paso, Texas.

Dear Miss Bean:

Your favor of the 21st instant to Mr. Edison was received and has had his personal consideration.

He wishes me to say to you that when you visit New York in accordance with your plans you can come over to the Laboratory here, and he will make a test record. If that is found satisfactory, he will have some records made for tone tests if you can make a satisfactory arrangement with our business people.

Orange is only a little over twelve miles from New York, and you can come out here on the Lackawanna Railroad, alighting from the train at Orange and take a street car for West Orange, which will bring you to the Laboratory door; Please ask for me, and I will arrange the rest.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

July 1st. 1916.

Samuel Insull, Esq.,
72 West Adams Street,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Insull:

Please do not think that the matter of Miss Dora Gibson is being ignored. On the contrary, the trial record I wrote you about was made several weeks ago, but Mr. Edison has been on one of his characteristic day and night campaigns, and has only just had time to hear a bunch of the trial records that have been accumulated for him.

He has made a rather favorable comment on Miss Gibson's trial record, and thinks that we can possibly use her for tone tests. The matter has now been referred back to Walter Miller to make further trials to see if we can utilize Miss Gibson's services in our phonograph work. I have written Mr. Miller to expedite it as much as he can.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

163

June 30th. 1916.

Mr. Walter H. Miller, Manager,
Thomas A. Edison, Inc.,
79 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Miller:

Miss Dora Gibson made a trial record a few weeks ago, and Mr. Edison has recently heard it. His comment was:

> "Pretty fair singer. Has some shake. Interpretation fair. Possibly could use for tone tests".

Miss Gibson is a friend of Samuel Insull's sister and I have had several letters from Mr. Insull himself asking that we would do what we could for Miss Gibson. I hope, therefore, that you will go into this matter at your early convenience, as I shall be glad to make some sort of favorable report to Mr. Insull.

Will you please keep me advised.

Yours very truly,

July 3rd. 1916.

Mr. H. S. Firestone, President,
Firestone Tire & Rubber Company,
Akron, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Firestone:

In accordance with our understanding at your interview with Mr. Edison last Saturday, I have instructed the factory to send a package of five pounds of Paraphenylenediamine addressed to you personally. I trust you will receive it in good season and that you may find it useful in your business.

Let me remind you that it is poison, and that it is not advisable to let it get on to the flesh where the skin is broken.

Yours very truly,

July 3rd. 1916.

Mr. F. A. Wallace, President,
R. Wallace & Sons Mfg. Co.,
Wallingford, Conn.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 30th ultimo to Mr. Edison was received and has had his personal attention. He wishes me to say that if you will call here at the Laboratory he will see you on the matter mentioned in your letter.

He is usually here all day and every day. I would suggest, however, that when you get to New York you call me up on the telephone (907 Orange), and I will make an appointment for you.

To come out here it is best to take the Lackawanna Railroad from New York, alighting from the train at Orange. You can then walk up one block to the Main street and take a trolley for West Orange, which will bring you right to the Laboratory door. When you come, please ask to see me and I will attend to the rest.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

July 3rd. 1916.

Firestone Tire Company,
84 Bank Street,
Newark, N. J. Attention of Mr. Manley.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your telephone inquiry this morning, I spoke to Mr. Edison and asked him the sizes of tires he would like to have you send in accordance with Mr. Firestone's courteous offer.

He would like to have them for his Simplex, and there are two sizes, namely, 37 X 5" and 36 X 4 1/2", QD clincher.

The tires should be addressed to Thomas A. Edison., Glenmont, Llewellyn Park, Orange, N. J.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

July 3rd. 1916.

Mr. John Beirne,
The White Company,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the 28th ultimo, let me say that I should prefer not to answer your question, as I do not want to get into the controversy on chain versus worm drive.

Yours very truly,

July 5th. 1916.

Mr. Harold Hurlbut,
615 Eilers Building,
Portland, Ore.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 29th ultimo to Mr. Edison has been received, and he requests us to say that if you are ever visiting New York again, you can go to our Recording Department and try another record of your voice, which can be sent over here if you think it shows sufficient improvement on what you did before.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

454

July 3rd. 1916.

Mr. Walter Wellman,
581 West 161st Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your work the "German Republic", is at hand, and I thank you for sending me a copy. It is written in a very kindly tone. For any one who has read and studied all the official documents, it is evident that you state only the truth. It will be a happy day for mankind when the German people adopt a Republic as their form of Government, and I hope your book will be widely read by the Germans themselves.

Yours very truly,

July 7th. 1916.

Mrs. F. K. Lawson,
1706 Rhode Island Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 30th ultimo to Mr. Edison has been received and submitted to him. He wishes me to say in reply that if you should at any time happen to be going to New York City, you could make a record at our Recording Rooms there. If you will let me know a day or two in advance, if you happen to be making a trip to New York I will arrange with our people to make a trial record, which will be sent over to Orange.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

July 7th. 1916.

Mr. C. C. Clevenger,
Stephenson, Va.

Dear Sir:

Acknowledging your favor of the fifth instant, let me say that your kind words in regard to the Diamond Disc Phonograph and records have afforded me a great deal of pleasure and gratification, and I wish to thank you for your courteous letter.

I appreciate the compliment as implied in the expression of your desire to own a few shares of stock of my Company, but I am afraid that you will be unable to have this desire gratified. All the stock is so closely held that no one will sell a share. Therefore, I am unable to help you out by suggesting any source of supply.

Yours very truly,

July 7th. 1916.

Mr. Charles Schwager,
456 Bedford Avenue,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the third instant has been received. I am afraid it will be a long time before the Jew will receive justice from all nations. In time, when religious superstition dies out, and all nations become republics, the Jew will obtain justice and be able to work out his destiny.

Yours very truly,

27

July 8th. 1916.

E. I. Du Pont de Nemours & Company,
Wilmington, Del.

Attention of Mr. W. J. R. Hill.

Gentlemen:

Referring to your favor of the fifth instant, let me say that having no tank car at liberty, we will continue to ship the C.P. Toluol to you in drums. We will make shipment as fast as we accumulate a carload, which is usually about 3,000 gallons. I presume this will be satisfactory to you.

Will you please send us another set of your forms of invoice, so we will have them on hand ready for the next shipment.

In regard to the quantity we are producing, and in answer to your question as to the approximate production per day at the present time, let me say that we added some more highly efficient apparatus at our mill, and instead of producing approximately 144 gallons per day, as we were when our contract with you was made, we are now averaging about 200 gallons per day.

Our contract calls for 120 gallons per day more or less until the end of this year, and 140 gallons per day more or less beginning January 1st, 1917, the quantity in each case being "the entire output of C. P. Toluol" made at our Plant. Inasmuch as we are producing more than we expected, we are at a loss just how to act in the matter. We would like to know whether it would be satisfactory to you if we finish 120 gallons per day till December 31st, 1916 and 140 gallons per day until the end of our contract with you, or must we ship a whole 200 gallons (more or less) per day to you under the terms of the contract, which says "the entire output of C. P. Toluol made at Edison's Benzol Plant at Johnstown, Pennsylvania".

We would like you to decide this matter as soon as possible, so that we can be free to sell the excess over the quantities estimated in the contract, should you not wish to take the entire output.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Gist

174

July 10th. 1916.

Mr. W. S. Andrews,
% Consulting Engineering Department,
General Electric Company,
Schenectady, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Andrews:

I am going to ask you if you will kindly undertake a little commission for Mr. Edison, and the following will explain.

We understand that the General Electric Company is purchasing residue from the naphthas of the Cambria Steel Company's Benzol Plant, in order to obtain its Cumerone contents.

Mr. Edison also has a Benzol Plant, which is located at the Cambria Steel Works at Johnstown, Pa., and we have the same kind of residue, containing Cumerone.

So far, Mr. Edison has not contracted for its sale, and he wants to ascertain if the General Electric Company wishes to negotiate for its purchase, and on what basis. He would be much obliged if you will kindly see the proper parties about this and find out something definite about it.

I wrote a letter addressed to the General Electric Company on this subject several weeks ago, but we have not even had an acknowledgment.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

July 10th. 1916.

Mr. C. W. Markus, Purchasing Agent,
Eastman Kodak Company,
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Markus:

I have this morning received your favor of the 7th instant in regard to Para Amido Phenol. I telephoned to our friends, the American Oil & Supply Company, who will have the distribution of this material, and I find that their Mr. Jones is going up tonight to Rochester, and will see you tomorrow morning on the matter.

We expect to start our plant tomorrow, which is a little earlier than we anticipated at first. I trust that Mr. Jones will be able to satisfy you as to our product and come to some arrangements for supplying you.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

13

July 10th. 1916.

Stein, Hirsh & Company,
61 Broadway,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

I have received your favor of the 8th instant in regard to complaints about Carbolic Acid. It is rather surprising that such complaints should be coming in at this late date. I have supplied very large quantities to the U. S. Government and to pharmaceutical houses and others, and practically without complaint.

The Carbolic Acid shipped from my plant has never in any single instance been as low as 29° melting point. It would be absolutely impossible for any such material to get out of my factory, - in fact, it has never been made by us with such a low melting point. We keep samples of all we make and every batch is carefully tested, so I cannot for one moment allow any claim made on such a basis as you state. If the Carbolic complained of by your customer shows as low a melting point as 29°, it is because the drums must have been left open or tampered with or something has happened to them after they left your possession.. It is only necessary for a drum to be left open a few minutes to reduce the melting point, as Carbolic Acid quickly absorbs moisture from the atmosphere. This is a fact universally known.

I do not see that it will serve any particular good to return the Carbolic Acid to Silver Lake. It is the same quality which we have been shipping to the Heyden Chemical Works on your order and on their own order for many months past. No change whatever has taken place in the quality. The Government and others find the quality of my Carbolic exceptionally good.

I cannot see why you should think it is unfortunate or foolish that you have made the statement that my Carbolic is standard. The Government experts and others say it is, and, therefore, I cannot see any reason for an admission on my part that it was a great misfortune for me to deliver my standard quality Phenol to you.

I expect to be here at the Laboratory every day, and shall be very glad to see your Mr. Stein on either Wednesday or Thursday if he would like to come over.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

July 8th. 1916.

Civilian Naval Cruise Committee,
Harris Trust Building,
Chicago, Ill.

Attention of Mr. George A. Paddock.

Gentlemen:

I have received your favor of the 16th ultimo enclosing circular descriptive of the naval cruise for civilians.

The proposition as outlined in your circular is quite attractive and appeals to me very favorably. It seems to me that it ought to be productive of great permanent benefit to our country, and it certainly should be most beneficial in every way to the individuals who take part in these cruises.

Yours very truly,

NO 209

July 11th . 1916.

Stein, Hirsh & Company,
61 Broadway,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

I am greatly surprised to receive from you today two invoices covering two lots of Carbolic Acid shipped to my works at Silver Lake without having received my expressed consent to return the same.

The sample bottle has been received from you at my plant at Silver Lake, and my people report that it is absolutely impossible that this sample represents anything that we have ever shipped from our plant. It contains a great deal of water and is almost black. It positively does not represent anything that we have ever shipped from our plant.

I have, therefore, given my employees instructions not to receive either shipment. I sincerely trust that the pleasant relations that have existed between us thus far will not be disturbed, as I am sure it would not be reasonable to expect me to receive and give credit for goods that I never made.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

9/155

July 12th. 1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
% Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Sir:

I am now able to give you full and definite instructions in regard to Toluol which we have contracted to sell to the DuPont people. Our contract runs until April 30th, 1917. The quantity is definite, and it will be very easy to comply with the terms of the contract.

The quantity that we are under contract to supply is 120 gallons a day, Sundays and holidays included, of C.P. Toluol from now until December 31st, 1916.

After December 31st, 1916, until April 30th, 1917, we are to supply 140 gallons per day, Sundays and holidays included.

Shipments are to be made in drums in carload lots as you accumulate the Toluol at the rates above mentioned. Of course, I know that you have more than a carload lot on hand at the present time, but that does not matter. We must only ship in carload lots figured at the rate of 120 gallons per day for this year, and 140 gallons per day next year.

For instance, you made a shipment to the DuPont people on June 19th. If my understanding is correct that 3,000 is about one carload, you will see that we should make a carload shipment of 3,000 gallons every 25 days. If a carload is more than 3,000 gallons, you will regulate your shipments accordingly, but the shipments are to be made in carload lots reckoned at the rates above mentioned.

Until further orders, shipments of this C. P. Toluol are to be made to E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Company, Barksdale, Wisconsin. I think I have made the above sufficiently clear that you can now go on and make the regular shipments, sending your bills of lading and shipping lists, in each case, to this office, as usual, as promptly as possible after shipment is made.

I must ask you to be absolutely sure to keep up your quality, and to see always that every drum is thoroughly cleaned. Our customers will hold us up to quality very strictly. I think it will perhaps be well to let you have a copy of the specifications under which we have sold this Toluol, and, therefore, enclose copy herewith.

I have tried to make these instructions very clear to you, but if there is anything uncertain in any of the above, please let me know so that I may be able to clear it up.

Yours very truly,

Trust

July 12th. 1910.

Mr. Collier C. Grant,
General Secretary and Treasurer of the
Varsity Magazine Supplement Hospital Fund,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 23rd ultimo has been handed to me, and I have given its contents careful attention.

An advertisement such as you suggest would conflict very seriously with some very elaborate advertising plans which were decided upon several months ago, and which are now being carried out. I shall, therefore, have to ask you to excuse me from entering into the advertising feature, but instead I should prefer to send my personal check for $100.00 for the fund, instead of giving the advertisement.

If this is agreeable, please advise me as to where I shall send the check.

Yours very truly,

Trust 322

July 13th. 1916.

Moone Chemical Company,
42 Clinton Avenue, North,
Rochester, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the tenth instant has been received, in which you state that you are in the market for five hundred pounds of Carbolic Acid crystals. If you are going to use it in the manufacturing of chemicals, we can offer you a special price on some Phenol that is somewhat discolored, although it is U. S. P. in all other respects, being twice distilled and melting point from 39° to 41°.

We will send you sample of this by express and would quote you 50¢ per pound for 500 pounds, packed in 250 pound galvanized sheet iron containers. There will be no charge for the containers. The price is F. O. B. Silver Lake, N. J., and is subject to previous sale.

You will quite appreciate the fact that in this exceedingly hot weather, all Phenol will melt a little in the container, even though it is tightly sealed, but in our case Phenol is quite pure nevertheless.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

19

July 13th. 1916.

Mr. Walter H. Miller, Manager,
Thomas A. Edison, Inc.,
79 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Miller:

I am returning herewith the manuscript of Edna Bailey "Whose Afraid", which Mr. Edison has O. K.'d. You will note on the memorandum that he asks how her records are selling. You need not trouble about answering that, as I am getting the data from Gil. Baldwin.

Yours very truly,

Enclosure.

68
201

July 13th. 1916.

Dr. T. J. Parker,
92 William Street,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Parker:

A few days ago you wrote to me enclosing a letter from Mr. F. B. Hallock, whose father you have known for a number of years. Mr. Hallock applied for a position as chemist, and I wrote to you on the sixth instant stating that the only position that had been open was filled a week before.

Mr. Edison now has use for another chemist, and requests me to write you and ask if the young man, Mr. F. B. Hallock, is up in organic chemistry.

Awaiting the favor of your reply, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Grist

July 13th. 1916.

Mr. G. J. Schultz,
Polishing & Buffing Department,
Edison Phonograph Works,
West Orange, N. J.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Edison wishes to thank you for the interest displayed in your suggestion of a metal center for the disc records. He says it would cost too much and is not necessary. At the present time, there is no one complaining about the thickness of the record.

Yours very truly,
Edison Laboratory.

Great

July 13th. 1916.

H. J. Heinz Company,
Pittsburgh, Pa. Attention of Mr. C. F. Ohligser.

Gentlemen:

Replying to your favor of the tenth instant, let me say that so far the only way to get natural colored motion pictures is to color them by hand. At one time we employed girls to do it, and the effect was fine. If you want to have it done, you could hire the girls and do it yourselves. It is quite sometime ago since we did any of this work, but we might possibly find the names and addresses of some of these girls if you wish us to do so.

Yours very truly,

21/203

July 14th. 1916.

E. R. Squibb & Sons,
78 Beekman Street,
New York City. Attention of Mr. Carlton H. Palmer.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 12th instant has been received, and we note that you are returning the 40 drums of rejected Carbolic Acid. When this material is received at our plant, we will take care of settlement.

We are making shipment to you of a 110 galvanized steel drum of Carbolic Acid, in accordance with our arrangements. This will be sent to you by the Wright & Cobb Transportation Company. We expect to deliver it to them today, in which case it would go by their boat tonight, and be in New York at their dock, foot of Roosevelt Street, right by the Brooklyn Bridge, tomorrow morning. If we do not get it off today it will go tomorrow, and so it would be at their dock on Monday.

I would suggest that immediately you receive it you had better examine it and see if it is all right. Of course, you understand as well as we do, that in this hot weather it may not be all solid, but that does not mean a low melting point, for instance, we had some bottles of Phenol in a closet in the Library here. They were tightly sealed, and the melting point was, 40.6° Centigrade, but during the last few hot days we found that part of it had run into liquid form. In order to make sure that there was no water in this liquid, we placed a bottle in a cool place for a while, and it all became solid again.

I simply mention this so that in case some of the Carbolic in the steel drum has liquefied by standing out on the dock in the sun, you will not come to the conclusion that the material is below the proper melting point.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

90

July 13th. 1916.

Mr. George M. Neubauer,
Oriel Building,
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sir:

Let me say in reply to your favor of the 10th instant that I have been sweating blood for the last two months in my efforts to reduce the surface sounds. The records are coming better and better all the time, and I shall keep at it until there is practically no disagreeable surface sounds left.

Let me assure you that these surface sounds get on my nerves worse than they possibly can do on yours.

Yours very truly,

Grist

July 13th. 1916.

Mr. W. H. Ribble,
290 Lawrence Avenue,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir:

Your letter is quite a surprise in view of the fact that, with three or four exceptions, we have all of the best singers in the country.

I would like a list of the best artists, singers, for instance, whom you say are superior to ours.

Yours very truly,

Assist

July 13th. 1916.

T. Shriver & Company,
Hamilton St. and Franklin Ave.,
Harrison, N. J.

Gentlemen:

Replying to your favor of the seventh instant, let me say that the Du Pont people are operating many filter presses themselves, and know all about them. I refuse to have any Du Pont representative go into any of my plants on such a pretext.

Yours very truly,

July 13th. 1916.

Mr. Frederic A. Whiting,
Ogunquit, Maine.

Dear Mr. Whiting:

I am glad to hear from you again, and also to note that you have lost none of your enthusiasm. When you break out into poetry, please do not hesitate to send it to me at any time. I have enjoyed your two verses on "With Verdure Clad", and shall gladly take you at your word and reproduce them in "Along Broadway". When the other poem entitled "Recreative Music" is ready, I shall be glad to see it.

I trust that you are enjoying your summer in Maine.

Yours very truly,

Resist

July 17th, 1910.

Corning Glass Company,
Corning, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

Mr. Edison wants me to write to you in regard to your heat-resisting glass. You are making battery jars for us, and sometime ago you sent to Mr. Edison a large bulb made of this heat-resisting glass. This bulb is approximately the size of a carboy, and contains a trifle over 17 gallons.

He wants to ascertain whether you could furnish these large bulbs in quantity, and if so, the price and when deliveries could be commenced.

His idea is to possibly use them to receive the material which comes from a chemical apparatus at about 200° Fahr. It would solidify in these glass bulbs, and in order to melt it out, the bulb would have to be put in boiling water or subjected to the action of live steam.

Awaiting the favor of your reply, I remain,

Yours very truly,

[illegible]

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

July 15th. 1915.

Miss Mary E. Mundy,
7 Lamberton Park,
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Madam:

Replying to your favor of the 12th instant, let me say that the diamond point of our reproducer is not injured by placing it on the smooth part of the record. If one hand guides the reproducer and the other hand guides the handle, the diamond point can always be placed at the edge or start of the lines, and even if it is put on the smooth part there is no harm done to the diamond point.

Yours very truly,

Trust
543

July 17th. 1910

Hon. Josephus Daniels,
Secretary of the Navy,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Daniels:

The Tavenner Bill now included as a rider on the Navy Bill is to prevent efficiency studies in Government works. It is the most outrageous piece of legislation ever attempted. It will go a long way towards preventing this Nation from becoming efficient.

If Mr. Wilson doesn't oppose it, it will in time certainly hurt him.

Yours very truly,

Geo. Cuno

Forbes

July 18th. 1916.

Mr. B. C. Forbes,
Equitable Building,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Forbes:

Your favor of the 12th instant was received, and I have consulted Mr. Edison about it. He wishes me to say that he is entirely too busy to give you any time just now. His entire time is being given at this time to some exceedingly important investigations, and it will not be possible for him to divert his attention from those matters just now.

Mr. Edison says that you had better make him the last one to be interviewed.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Twist
506

July 18th. 1916.

Mr. G. C. Silzer,
% Harger & Blish,
Des Moines, Ia.

Dear Mr. Silzer:

Your favor of the 14th instant is at hand, and I am very glad indeed to learn that you derived such enjoyment from your recent visit to the plant. Like yourself, I appreciated the opportunity of getting better acquainted.

From time to time I have had the privilege of reading the letters which you sent out to your dealers, and they have always interested me very much. I am glad of your offer to put my name on the mailing list, and accept such offer with pleasure. The two letters which you sent out since returning from the Convention are mighty interesting.

Please accept my kindest regards and convey the same also to Mr. Blish.

Yours very truly,

205
315

July 19th. 1916.

Mr. Stanley Doggett,
99 John Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 18th instant has been handed to me. In reply let me say that I cannot consent to defer making shipments of Aniline Oil under your contract with me, as requested in your letter. I have only two or three days storage capacity, so I shall have to ship to you daily and leave it to you to find storage accommodation.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

First

July 17th. 1916.

Hon. John W. Herbert, Chairman,
Commission on Road Legislation,
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce,
15 Exchange Place,
Jersey City, N. J.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your circular letter of the 14th instant, in reply to which let me say that I am very familiar with the roads of New Jersey. I have watched new roads, the traffic thereon, and the time they go to pieces. I am also familiar with many thousands of miles of roads in France, Germany and Austria, and my opinion is that the following is necessary in order to solve the problem you mention.

1. Engage a highly experienced French Road Engineer for new constructions, and also for drainage and frost difficulties on old roads.

2. Use only concrete for new constructions.

3. For old roads use old men and give them several miles each of road to patrol, instructing them to report at once the slightest hole in the surface of the road before it can be enlarged and also to keep the drainage clear of debris.

4. Distribute repair materials at intervals along all roads for use by the patrols, and furnish patrol men with light, large-wheel hand-cars and repair tools.

5. Institute a proper system of checking and administration control over the patrol men and their work.

The State should make the proper arrangements with all other authorities and then take over the construction and maintenance of all roads in the State, otherwise no proper road system is possible.

Roads should not be built by contractors. They tamper with State Inspectors and the roads are badly constructed.

Keep the road business out of politics, if such a thing is possible.

Yours very truly,

Trust

July 18th. 1916.

Mrs. I. M. Irwin,
216 Third Avenue,
Asbury Park, N. J.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 15th instant in regard to Mme. Olitzka's Grand Concert for the benefit of the New Jersey Soldiers'Relief League.

Inasmuch as I am paying the full salary of 47 of my employees now at the front, it seems to me that I am doing my share. I, therefore, return the concert ticket herewith.

Yours very truly,

Enclosure.

Trait
440

July 18th. 1916.

Mr. J. B. Taltavall,
% Telegraph and Telephone Age,
253 Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Taltavall:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 15th instant, which has had my careful attention.

I have not been receiving visiting parties of late, but am going to make an exception in the case of the Old Time Telegraphers and the United States Military Telegraphers, to whom I now extend a cordial invitation to visit me on Wednesday, September 27th next.

I will arrange to have our friends shown some of the plant, and also to provide entertainment, including lunch. As to the arrangement of the details I will ask you to get in communication with Mr. Meadowcroft of my office.

I shall be glad to see my old friends and former associates when they come out here on this visit.

Yours very truly,

116/339

July 21st. 1916.

Mr. I. W. England,
% Passaic Metal Ware Company,
Passaic, N. J.

Dear Mr. England:

I received from the Guarantee Mortgage and Title Insurance Company, the proposed deed and blue print, with the plot marked out in red. I have gone over the description, and find it correct. The reason that I felt uncertain before was that there was no "point" marked in the eleventh course, and as the total number of feet in that course was 498.50, whereas I see it should be really 98.50, you may quite understand how I got off the track.

If you will now have the deed prepared for signature and send it along, as proposed, Mr. Edison will execute it. Let me say for your information that I am going away for a vacation at the end of the month, and Mr. Edison will be going away for a vacation sometime in August, so I would suggest that it would be well to give the matter early attention.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

P.S. I return the draft, deed and blue print herewith.

July 22nd. 1916.

Mrs. John Kelly,
937 Genesee Avenue,
Saginaw, Mich.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 17th instant to Mr. Edison has been received. He requests us to say in reply that there are several English translations of the Latin words of "Ave Maria". When we made our record we used Ditson's translation, which is liberal and acceptable to persons of all religious denominations. Inasmuch as Gounod's composition is a favorite with persons of all denominations, we thought it best to use the liberal translation.

The translation which you give in your letter is the one used by the Roman Catholic Church in its service, and if we had used it, the sale of our records would have been greatly restricted.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

July 22nd. 1916.

Mr. Arthur R. Colburn,
505 E Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 19th instant has been forwarded to Mr. Edison. He requests us to say that if the soprano singer whom you mention should ever happen to visit New York City, we would be pleased to make a trial record of her voice at our Recording Studio, 79 Fifth Avenue, New York City. This is the only Recording Studio we have, and Mr. W. H. Miller, the Manager, will have a trial record made if the lady should happen to be in New York City.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Trust

July 24th. 1916.

Mr. A. P. M. Fleming,
West Cables,
Hale Road,
Hale, Cheshire,
England.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your favor of the 13th ultimo, Mr. Edison requests us to say that a great deal of his experimental work is done in various parts of our factory buildings, in connection with the particular part of the industry to which the experiments relate. There is comparatively little of mere research work done here, as practically all of Mr. Edison's experimental work relates to the various industries that are being operated by him.

We have no elaborate photographs of the different places where Mr. Edison's experimental work is performed. As a matter fact it would be quite difficult to get up a set of photographs which would really cover the subject. The only ones we think th would be of any use to you would be the two we are now enclosing which shows an exterior view of the Laboratory building and an interior view of the Chemical Laboratory, which is Mr. Edison's favorite experimental place in the whole plant. A vast amount o his work has been done in this room.

It would be manifestly out of the question to give yo details as to the cost of this Chemical ~~Laboratory~~ as inquiry changes have been made in it during the 29 years since its erec

We trust the photographs will be of some use to you.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Enclosures.

246/375

July 25th. 1916.

Mr. Stanley Doggett,
99 John Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your favor of the 21st instant, let me say that I am willing to accommodate you to the extent therein mentioned.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

256

July 25th. 1916.

Mr. J. J. Apatow, Secretary,
The Economic Psychology Association,
55 Hanson Place,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 22nd instant has been received, and Mr. Edison wishes me to ask you to please send the May 1916 issue of the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, also the supplement to this volume on "Steadying Employment". Herewith you will find check for $2.50 as per your letter.

When you forward the books, will you please have them sent to me, and I will bring them to Mr. Edison's attention.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

269
379

July 27th. 1916.

Mr. I. W. England,
% Passaic Metal Ware Co.,
Passaic, N. J.

Dear Mr. England:

I am sorry I had to break off so abruptly in our telephone conversation, but Mr. Edison had come up from the factory buildings and wanted me in a hurry.

He looked over the blue print map, and said that he could not identify the property.

He asked me to write to you and suggest to you to send to Trenton and get a topographical survey sheet showing the mine district in question and for you to outline on that map the exact location.

I think that when you have this ready you had better come over and see him.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

306/359

July 27th. 1910.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
% Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Mr. Bacon:

I have sent you a night letter as follows:

"Your letter 26th received. All right to make shipment about 5200 gallons Toluol Du Pont. Do not send more than 5200 this shipment. Be sure drums clean. Lettering on drums same as first shipment. Do not change specifications. Mr. Edison wants you to make as good Toluol as made on Morgan contract, but it is not necessary to change any you have already made. Shipment 90% washed Benzol all right."

The above telegram explains itself pretty well, but I want to just emphasize on two or three points.

You will note that I said ship only 5200 gallons Toluol to Du Pont. This will leave about a little over 6,000 gallons. I shall hope to have you make some more C. P. Toluol right away, as I shall probably call upon you within a few days for a shipment of 7500 gallons which I believe we are going to sell as spot stuff.

The reason that I told you in my telegram not to lower the specifications is because we shall have some spot Toluol from time to time, and shall have to sell it up to the British Specifications, same as you made for Morgan.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

313
459

Mr. C. H. Opdyke,
% Woodward Iron Company,
Woodward, Ala.

Dear Sir:

In view of the low rate of Toluol production at Woodward, Mitsui & Company, Limited, have asked my consent to defer the shipment of 5180 gallons of Toluol to me, to replace that which I let them have from my Johnstown Plant.

I have decided to accede to their wishes and have, therefore, written to day to Mr. Takaki signifying my consent to defer delivery to me of 5180 gallons of Toluol until after you have made the next shipment of 8160 gallons to the Hercules Powder Company on September 17th.

I have requested that any excess (up to the extent of 5180 gallons) that you may have on hand after making the shipment to the Hercules Powder Company on September 17th shall be shipped to me.

I shall have a talk with Mr. Mason and see what he can do towards an increase rate of output, and he will communicate with you on that subject.

Yours very truly,

First
366

July 27th. 1916.

Stillwell & Gladding,
181 Front Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

I have received your certificate of analysis Nos. 197417 and 197418, covering the samples of Phenol taken from batch #218.

I notice that the certificate #197418 states that the sample was "taken from the pipe". I presume you mean by this that it was taken as it came out of the Still. This analysis shows the crystallizing point to be 39.30°C.

Certificate #197417 covers sample taken "from each drum" of the same batch. This shows a lower crystallizing point, namely 38.20° C.

The difference between the two melting points is quite material, and I am wondering whether you take great precautions not to expose the samples of Phenol to the air a second longer than is absolutely necessary. During the last few days the atmosphere has been practically at saturation point, and a few seconds exposure of the Phenol will reduce its crystallizing point very considerably.

I would like to hear from your on this subject.

Yours very truly,

July 27th. 1916.

Mr. Shunzo Takaki,
% Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Takaki:

Mr. Meadowcroft has shown me your favor of the 26th instant in relation to the production of Toluol at Woodward, and the deliveries which you are to make to the Hercules Powder Company.

You ask my consent to defer the delivery by you to me of the 5180 gallons of Toluol which I supplied to you from my Johnstown Plant some little time ago, to help you out on your deliveries to the Hercules Powder Company. In accordance with your request, I am willing to consent that you may defer delivery of this 5180 gallons to me until you have made shipment of the 8150 gallons to the Hercules Powder Company on September 17th, it being understood that immediately after your shipment to the Hercules Powder Company on September 17th, you will ship any excess of C. P. Toluol you have on hand at Woodward up to the extent of 5180 gallons. I have written to Mr. Opdyke to this effect, as per carbon copy of my letter herewith enclosed.

In the meantime, I will take up the matter of production with Mr. Mason, and see if we cannot increase the output of Toluol. Mr. Mason will write to Mr. Opdyke about this.

Yours very truly,

Enclosure.

347/652

July 31st. 1916.

Stillwell & Gladding,
181 Front Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

As we have now satisfied our customer as to the product coming from our Carbolic Acid stills, we shall be able to dispense with the furnishing to them of your certificate each day. Will you please, therefore, consider our arrangement as terminated on August second. We mention that day, because while you might receive this letter tomorrow morning, your Mr. Watt may have gone to the plant to take their samples, and we would include in our arrangement the certificate of the samples which might be taken tomorrow.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

July 31st. 1916.

Mr. C. A. Coffin,
% General Electric Company,
30 Church Street,
New York City.

Friend Coffin:

During the last winter I spent a great deal of money in putting some valuable improvements in my Cement Plant, and in the Spring opened up with everything in first-class shape and we are turning out fine product.

The President and General Manager of my Cement Plant tell me that the General Electric Company is going to put up a building in Dayton, Ohio, in which 16,000 barrels of cement will be used. I understand that our bids are practically the same as those of the other fellows. I know our product is first-class, Naturally I want to see plenty of business coming our way, and should be glad if we could land the General Electric Company's order for the 16,000 barrels, all other things being equal.

Yours sincerely,

[illegible]

July 29th. 1916.

Mr. J. Stuart Blackton,
% Vitagraph Studios,
Locust Avenue,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Blackton:

Replying to your recent favor in regard to the making of a biographical motion picture of myself, let me say I find on inquiry that my own people have been contemplating for a long time past the making of such a film. It seems that they have been going ahead gathering the data for this for a long time, and naturally they were expecting our own Company to make the film. Therefore, I can not return a favorable response to your letter.

Yours very truly,

July 29th. 1916.

Mr. W. R. Lighton,
Fayetteville, Ark.

Dear Mr. Lighton:

I have received your favor of the 25th instant, and wish to express my appreciative thanks for it. The next thing to an honest man is a music lover. At least that is what we think here, so your appreciative letter is received with joy.

We are going to improve things right along.

Yours very truly,

July 31st. 1916.

Mr. S. Sanders,
Greensboro, Ala.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 27th ultimo has been received. Mr. Edison requests us to say in reply that so far as Bert Reese's performance is concerned, he does just what is stated, but when he begins to predict the future he is going beyond his powers and makes himself ridiculous.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

334

August 2nd. 1916.

Mr. T. W. England,
c/o Passaic Metal Ware Co.,
Passaic, N. J.

Dear Mr. England:

Mr. and Mrs. Edison have executed the deed, and I am now enclosing the same, all completed.

You can forward your check to Mr. Edison in accordance with the arrangement already made.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

Florida

August 1st. 1916.

Mr. William Goodell Frost,
Berea College,
Berea, Kentucky.

Dear Mr. Frost:

I received a delightful volume from you entitled "Our Southern Highlanders" which I have read with great pleasure and for which I am very much obliged. The book is very interesting to me, as I have been over the Smoky and Blue Ridge Mountains personally, prospecting for Cobalt.

Yours very truly,

203
667

August 2nd. 1916.

E. R. Squibb & Sons,
78 Beekman Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 31st ultimo has been received. We regret very much to learn that the Carbolic Acid we sent you in the galvanized steel drum was dark in color. We thought that the galvanized steel drum would overcome the difficulty. Of course, you can return the drum to Thomas A. Edison, Inc., Carbolic Division, Silver Lake, N. J., via Erie delivery.

We are now arranging to put the Phenol into 100 pound tin containers. Our experience with the galvanized sheet iron has been so disastrous that we have made this change, and also decided upon smaller package. We think that the chances of its getting discolored in tin containers may be much less. However, we will see.

As soon as we receive our tin containers from the manufacturers we will send you one of the 100 pound packages, and shall be very much obliged if you will kindly report upon it at your early convenience.

I am going to leave for a vacation Friday morning of this week, to be gone until September 1st, and will leave instructions to ship you one of these 100 pound packages. If you receive one of these 100 pound packages and try it in my absence I shall be glad if you will kindly report the result to Mr. M. Kammerhoff, Thomas A. Edison, Inc., Carbolic Division, Silver Lake, N. J. I am writing to Mr. Kammerhoff to acquaint him with the contents of this letter.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

August 1st. 1916

Mr. A. A. Sessions,
Mountain Home, Idaho.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 25th ultimo has been received. In reply let me say that my statement in the article you sent is correct. The attempt of Bert Reese to act as a prophet is ridiculous. While he has some inexplicable power; he appears to be inclined to enhance them by prophecying.

Yours very truly,

August 1st. 1916.

Mr. Elmer A. Sperry,
% The Sperry Gyroscope Co.,
Manhattan Bridge Plaza,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Sperry:

I have received your favor of the 27th ultimo, and under ordinary circumstances would be very glad to meet Prof. Watanabe. Just at present I am finishing up some very important investigations which take every minute of my time day and night. I am trying to get away next week for three weeks' vacation, so it is pretty hard for me to make any appointments just now.

Yours very truly,

August 3rd. 1916.

Mr. James T. Phelan,
% Fuller Engineering Co.,
Allentown, Pa.

Dear Mr. Phelan:

Your favor of the second instant has been received, and I beg to say in reply that I have spoken to Mr. Edison about you this morning, and he says that he will be here at the Laboratory on Saturday morning, and will have a talk with you.

I leave for my vacation tonight, but if you will ask for Mr. Rudolph Tulloch when you come on Saturday morning, he will arrange that you shall see Mr. Edison.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

351

August 2nd. 1916.

A. Klipstein & Company,
644 Greenwich Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Replying to your favor of the 31st ultimo we would say that we will guarantee to furnish white Phenol if it is shipped in glass containers. We have furnished some bottled Phenol for some of our customers, who have furnished the bottles.

We cannot, however, guarantee to furnish white Phenol when it is shipped in metallic containers of either galvanized iron or tin. The latter is the safest, but the manufacturers now-a-days do not seem to make cans free from defects. These defects may be trifling, but they permit the Phenol to reach the iron and tint the contents of some of the cans while other cans without defects remain white.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Prohibition

August 3rd. 1916.

Mr. Irving Fisher,
460 Prospect Street,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 1st instant, and in reply would say that I am not a believer in absolute prohibition. I would allow beer containing not more than 2% alcohol to be sold, but would prohibit the sale of alcohol in any other form. This would be controlled by the National Government.

In this way, on account of the natural limitation of the human stomach, none of the ill effects of liquor, which prohibition seeks to suppress, would be possible, and there would not be any disturbance of the social habits of the people or continuous attempts to repeal the law. In other words it would be practically prohibition.

Yours very truly,

354
669

August 7th. 1916/

Mr. J. B. Taltavall,
Telegraph and Telephone Age,
253 Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the third instant addressed to Mr. Meadowcroft has been received. At the present time he is on his vacation and will not return until September 1st. We shall, therefore, hold your letter for him on his return in September.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.
M

August 8th. 1916.

Mrs. Edward Riester,
334 W. Grand Avenue,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Dear Madam:

I am in receipt of your favor of the second instant, for which please accept my thanks. As soon as we can, we will try Chalmers in "Holy City". I agree with you regarding Williamson.

Yours very truly,

August 14th. 1916.

Mr. E. G. Liebold,
Secretary to HENRY FORD,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the third instant addressed to Mr. Meadowcroft has been received, and in accordance with Mr. Edison's instructions I am forwarding to you under separate cover a copy of the book entitled "The German Republic" by Mr. Walter Wellman.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.

First

August 16th. 1916.

r. T. W. Reit,
President of the Senate,
Houses of Parliament,
Cape Town, South Africa.

ar Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 12th of July and beg y in reply that I use in my various factories a respirator which keep particles out of the lung, which are many times smaller you mention. The usual respirator does not fit the contour of different faces of the miners and the valve in them is of no rthly use and is dangerous. I use the ordinary rubber respirator, ug the valve with sponge and line the whole edge of the rubber with ick sponge, so thick that the edge always fits the nose and face. e sponge is sewed on, The finest pore sponge like those sold in ug stores should be used.

The respirator is put in water and then surplus water squeez ut leaving it damp. Breathing is very free. The skin on account sponge and moisture is not irritated and the men soon get used n. Where we have 100 men we have a man whose sole business is h on sponges, keep them in order and keep them clean. Each n has two, one in use and one for washing, repairing, etc.

I have men who have worked for years in an atmosphere so with fine dust that one person could not see another fifteen stant and yet these men are healthy. I myself while experiment er these conditions have worn these respirators for weeks at a d nothing entered my lungs.

Yours very truly,

Print

August 21st. 1916.

Mr. Victor S. Flechter,
500 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 15th instant addressed to Mr. Edison has been received and laid before him. He requests me to say in reply that he intends to visit New York and listen to a number of violins in the later part of September and will call on you.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.

475

August 21st. 1916.

Mr. Henry J. Brennan,
Carbondale, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the 16th instant, I beg to say that for years I have advocated putting power stations at the mines, turning the coal into electricity and sending it to market over wires. Only one place has carried out this suggestion and that is in Nova Scotia, and is a great success.

Yours very truly,

221

August 21st. 1916.

Hon. Josephus Daniels,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Daniels:

Your favor of the 16th instant has been received. Unfortunately I leave on a vacation on August 28th for two weeks, and will be back by the 16th or 17th of September, when I can come to Washington.

Mr. Ford, John Burroughs and Mr. Firestone of the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company are going with me on an automobile trip in the Catskill and Adirondack mountains. We are going to camp out. I have a full camping outfit. Is there any possibility that you could go with us for the whole or part of the period. I have a tent and cot for each and the grub will be O. K.

Yours very truly,

Tesla

August 21st. 1916.

Mr. P. B. Shaw,
Pennsylvania Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Shaw:

Your favor of the 16th instant has been received. The storage battery is in fine shape and over a million dollars behind orders. My eight chemical plants are booming. Am experimenting on a new thing which might be in your line. I will let you know when ready.

Yours very truly,

Mrs

August 21st. 1916.

Mrs. M. Smith,
465 Tompkins Avenue,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Madam:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 17th instant in reference to an advertisement to be inserted in the program of the 69th Regimental Fair, and in reply would say I am paying $1400.00 out each week to the huskies from my Works who have gone to Mexico and I cannot afford to do what you ask.

Yours very truly,

141

615

August 23rd. 1916.

Matsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City. Attention of Mr. Takaki.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 21st instant addressed for attention of Mr. Kellow has been referred by him to this office for attention.

We beg to say in reply that owing to the disturbed condition of affairs, it is impossible to obtain containers which are not defective, due to the fact that the works manufacturing containers are compelled to take on inexperienced people on account of shortage of labor. However, we will do the best we can.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

418

August 23rd. 1916.

Mr. Stanley Doggett,
99 John Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 21st instant, and beg to say in reply that your understanding in reference to the change of price for balance of Aniline Oil due on your contract with me for one drum (900 pounds) of Aniline Oil per working day from January 1st, 1916 to December 31st, 1916, and also including the undelivered Aniline Oil which we are holding for shipping instructions from you, is correct.

As understood by you, the price of Aniline Oil from now on to the end of the contract, namely, December 31st, 1916, and including the undelivered Aniline Oil on account of the above contract, is to be 40¢ per pound, a reduction of 10¢ from the original contract price of 50¢ per pound.

We hope you can get storage as soon as possible, as we need the space this Aniline Oil is taking up.

Yours very truly,

August 24th. 1916.

Mr. John Finley,
The University of the State of New York,
The State Department of Education,
Albany, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Finley;

Replying to your favor of the 21st instant, inviting me as a special guest to the session when the pictured word is to be discussed at the Convocation of the University of the State of New York, I beg to say that I am a very unreliable personality when it comes to attending public functions. It is possible that I may come, but it is very uncertain.

Yours very truly,

569
678

Sppt. 1st. 1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Attention of Mr. Shunzo Takaki.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 25th ultimo in regard to your personal friend, Mr. T. Kuroda, has been handed to me today on my return from vacation. It gives me great pleasure to write to Mr. Opdyke asking him to take good care of Mr. Kuroda when he goes to see him. I have also sent a telegram to Mr. Opdyke, in case Mr. Kuroda reaches Woodward before my letter.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Quit

Sept. 1st. 1916.

Mr. W. K. Cochrane,
% American Tobacco Co.,
11 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 23rd ultimo to Mr. Edison was received, but he was so exceedingly busy finishing up some important experiments before leaving for his camping trip that he did not get time to reply to it in person.

Mr. Edison is so utterly opposed to cigarettes and has expressed himself so emphatically in the public press concerning them, that he objects to your publishing the advertisement submitted by you, as addressed to him.

Of course, he appreciates your courtesy in submitting the question to him first, and trusts that you will kindly accept his declination in the spirit in which it is made.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Q. 61

Sept. 1st. 1916.

Mr. E. S. Opdyke, Purchasing Agent,
The Edison Portland Cement Company,
Stewartsville, N. J.

My dear Mr. Opdyke:

Your favor of the 21st ultimo has been received by me this morning on my return from vacation, and I thank you for remembering the matter of the three high rolls. Our good old friend Mr. Herter has departed, and, of course, I cannot ask him about photographs. Anyway, it is not important enough to worry any of us, so I thank you for your kind attention and also for your letter of the 25th ultimo enclosing the prints of the roaster, which I will send to Miss Colburn.

Yours very truly,

Test

September 5th. 1916.

National Exposition of Chemical Industries,
Grand Central Palace,
New York City.

Attention of Mr. Adrian Nagelvoort.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 31st ultimo was received. I have handed your invoice to our Cashier, and requested that a check be sent to you for the balance of $135.00 without delay. The persons who will be in attendance at our Exhibit and for whom we will require season passes are Ludwig Ott and Walter S. Mallory, Jr. The list of our different products Mr. Edison will exhibit is as follows:

Benzol
Toluol
Solvent Naphtha
Xylol
Naphthaline
Nitrobenzol
Aniline Oil
Aniline Salt
Acetanilid
Para Nitroacetanilid
Benzene Sulphonic Acid
Calcium Benzenesulphonate
Sodium Benzenesulphonate
Sodium Phenolate (Fusion Product)
Crude Phenol
Phenol, C. P.

Acetyl Paraphenylenediamine
Paraphenylenediamine
Sodium Acetate
Benzidine
Benzidine Sulphate
Para Amido Phenol Base
Para Amido Phenol Hydrochloride
Iron by Hydrogen
Iron by Hydrogen Grade B,
Nickel Sulphate
Cobalt Sulphate
Nickel Hydrate
Cobalt Hydrate
Nickel Flake
Mercury Oxide
Iron Oxide (Red)

I return herewith the card, on which I have written the copy for the sign.

Yours very truly,

Wm Hallewell

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

366

September 6th. 1916.

Stillwell & Gladding,
181 Front Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Herewith I hand you a sample bottle of Phenol. We have been requested to make a quotation and to guarantee our product to comply with U. S. P. specifications. Mr. Edison does not like to give a guarantee of this kind, but he would like you to make an analysis and at the same time state in what particulars this Phenol differs from U. S. P.

Can you do this tomorrow, as our prospective customer is in a great hurry?

Will you kindly telephone me about 9 o'clock tomorrow morning or as soon thereafter as convenient.

Yours very truly,

[illegible]

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Finish

September 7th. 1[illegible]

Mme. Grace C. Myers,
720 Kennune Place,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the fifth instant to Mr. Edison has been received. He is away on a short vacation, but we can give you the information desired.

The only way that we can determine whether or not a singer is acceptable is to have a trial record made and sent over to the Laboratory for consideration.

If you wish to make a trial record, you may go to our Recording Studio at 79 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and present this letter to Mr. W. H. Miller, the Manager, who will have a trial record made of your voice and send it over to the Laboratory.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

440

September 7th. 1916.

Mr. J. B. Taltavall,
c/o Telegraph and Telephone Age,
253 Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Taltavall:

I have just recently returned from vacation, and find your favor of the third ultimo in regard to the visit of the old time telegraphers on Wednesday, September 27th.

In regard to making a motion picture, let me say that I expect to arrange for this, but at this time am not absolutely positive that we can carry out the arrangement. If we are able to arrange for it at all, the idea would be to take a motion picture of our guests as they come through the gate to the Laboratory, and then possibly Mr. Edison receiving them at the door. There would be no stage facilities at all if a motion picture is made. I think it would be advisable for Mr. Fleming to come over and see me at an early date, so that things are not left too long.

It will be quite essential that I should know at the earliest possible date how many there will be in the party. Of course, I do not expect that you can let me know down to a single person, but approximately say within five or six either more or less.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

General Letterbook Series
Letterbook, LB-114 (1916)

This letterbook covers the period September-November 1916. Most of the correspondence is by Edison and William H. Meadowcroft. Included are letters pertaining to Edison's benzol absorbing plants and other chemical manufacturing interests, the production of toluol, and the creation of a commercial department to manage the sale of his chemical products. Other documents relate to the phonograph and storage battery businesses. Also included are letters regarding Edison's support for Woodrow Wilson in the presidential election and his opinion of German armaments. Among the correspondents are economist Irving Fisher, Henry Ford's personal secretary Ernest G. Liebold, and representatives of Mitsui & Co.

The spine is stamped "Letters" and is marked "T.A.E. From- Sept. 13 -1916- To S" The number "52" also appears on the spine. The book contains 700 numbered pages and an index. Approximately 15 percent of the book has been selected.

(CONTINUED)

Amer Oil & Supply Co,	1-36-38-98-99-118-131-141-150-173-179-229-235-236
Anderton, A.	37-
Austen, C. E.	75-
Adams, J. G.	76-
Acker Mineral & Condit Co,	125-
Angier, C. A.	132-
Anniston Smelting Mills,	420 (P.C. Book)
Aylesworth, W. A.	421 (P.C. Book)
Amer Oil & Supply Co,	284-294-302-304-342-343-344-413-[illegible]-478-525-526-535-
Anderson, A. A.	321-
Abernethy, J. H.	322-
Ackerman, C. B.	323-
Abell Co., A. S. "Amerine"	389-
Amer. Mineral Products Co.	399-
Amer. Synthetic Color Co.	445-
Amer. Printing Co.,	446-
Amer. Magnetic Phone Co,	503-
Alderka Co., The	527-
Ahein, H. A.	549-
Arnold Print Works,	605-
Applegate, A. M.	606-
Amer. Oil & Supply Co	607-638-
Allen, J. B.	626-687-
Ias, A. H.	653-
Anchellm, B.	684-
Aterite Co, M. H.	699-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M Mc N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

B

Bain, J. G.	2-
Boro Chem. Co.,	3-152-153-210-
Bacon, J.	4-52-100-212-232-285-296-309-382-414-428-464-528- (CONTINUED)
Barner, J. H.	34-
Blinfield Robe and Tanning Co.,	35-
Bowman, E. W.	50-
Brooks, W. G.	51-
Beatson, J. W.	77-
Bredte Co.,	78-
Baker, Wm. C.	133-
Burrows Dr. G. N.	142-
Burke Dr. C. E.	143-
Bates, D. N.	151-
Brown, B. J.	154-
Barr, J. E.	422 E. P.C. Book)
Bissell & Smith Co.,	182-292-326-
Boyce, P. C.	183-
Buckner, H. W.	184-
Brandenburg, A.	185-
Brown, P. E.	200-
Betzold Bros.	211-
Bourdon, N.	213-
Buttler, J.	239-
Baldwin, A. J.	260-
Binsfeld, H.	295-
Biddle, G.	324-
Butler, B.	325-
Bradbury, P. N.	327-
Bowie Mrs. V.	349-
Bakeli, C.	350-
Burnell, N. B.	351-
Ballantine, J. B.	447-
Barto, Mrs. M.	453-
Braunsprecht Reinemann Co.,	468-
Bennepoint Co.,	482-
Bigelow, E. F.	483-
Benkert, W. R.	501-

Bristol Chem. Works	506-
Brock, Wm. M.	511-
Brown, Mrs. M. N.	512-
Bischoff, E. L.	513-
Bender, R. W.	514-
Bain News Service	550
Buena Vista Mining Co.	562
Bartlett, G. K.	564-
Burkham, Mrs. C. J.	565-
Binsweger, N. J.	566-
Bancus, J. D.	583-
Bartlett Co., F. A.	584-
Baersterli, Mrs. C.	627-
Bond, A. Russell	639-
Bacon, J.	654-675-679- ~~[illegible]~~
Balch Roentgenoscopic Screen Co.	655-
Batavia Rubber Co.	688-

A B C

C

Curtis, G. M.	5-	
Callaway, O. P.	39-	
Campbell, P.	53-	
Colmer, C. C.	79-	
Cook, J. S.	101-	
Cavagnaro, L. J.	119-	
Chatham Rys. Co.	134-	
Clark, C. W.	155-	
Clearwater, A. T.	186-	
Colt, A. E.	201-	
Conley, Mrs. E. S.	214-	
Commercial Vehicle	225-	
Chatfelem, J. W.	240-	
Crizan, D. E.	241-	
Chambers, Dr. V.	265-	
Cerdo, A.	266-	
Cogswin Chem. Co.	286-	
Carlson, C. B.	303-	
Clymer, [illegible]	317-320-[illegible]-640-	
Cain, W. R.	329-	
Cogle, W. A.	328-	
Charlton, W.	374-	
Curtis, [illegible] S.	358-	
Carter	400-	
Cathcart, W. L.	415-	
Cook, Mrs. L. B.	442-515-	
Cankart, E. N.	451-	
Caldwell, B. J.	455-	
Creighton, A. W.	466-	
Cooper Co. [illegible]	485-	
Cook Carriages C.P.	486-	
Cutting, Dr. S. W.	516-	
Chamber of Comm. of N.Y.	548-	
Campbell, J.	551-	
Chocholek, C.	555-	
Cleveland Window Glass & Door Co.	556-	
Cedroni, Mlle. M	557	

Connamacher, N. S.	628-
Canadian Explosives Limited.	636-
Clark, J. T.	656-
Chitylett, W.	677-

A B C D

Donatto Co., O.	6-
Dixon, J. A. A.	54-
Dye Products and Chem. Co.,	80-
Drummond, G. B.	102-
Derby, G.	196-
Dequene Light Co, Employees	206-
Du Pont de Nemours Co., E. I.	215-
Detroit Fur Dressing & Dying Co.	233-507-
Davenport, G. E.	242-
Drew & Co., E. H.	297-
Ducker, Reid M.	330-
Dore, E.	331-
Dowell, L.	353-
Dickinson, J. G.	385-
Doggett, S.	416-457-568-
Dorner, G. L.	517-
Day, J. C.	578-629-691-
Dowey, T. L.	567-
Doherty, H. L.	589-
Dickey, D. Co.	608-
Delaney, T. E.	609-
Dowling, Mrs. E.	630-
Dunn, Miss M. E.	641-
Dickl, Dr. C. G.	657-
De Coyn & Rice	676-
Dougherty, Hugh. H.	690-
Dolt, J. C.	692-

Edison Portland Cement Co.	48-49-130-273-308-530½-	560-625-
Edmands & Co., T. A.	68-103-244-	
Ehrlich, D.	81-	
Eby, D.	156-397-	
Elerbe, N. A.	157-	
Electromechanical Co, The	423- (E. P. Cancel Book)	
Eagle Pencil Co.,	202-	
Edison, W. L.	237-	
Editorial Posers	243-552-	
Erbe, C.	280-	
Edison, Miss C. L.	332-	
Eckert, L.	333-	
Etler, J. E.	354-	
Edwards, J. P.	355-	
Etch-O-Lite Co.	488-	
Evans, Mrs. E. A.	590-	
Ehern, Herman	693-	
Engineering Magazine, The	694-	

Fenimore, C. A.	67-
Frost, Dr. L. C.	82-
Foote, F. M.	104-187
Farley, F.	120-
Fleming, C. E.	144-
Fairbanks, Morse & Co.	158-
Foote, Mrs. T. M.	245-
Fisley, Dr. J. N.	246-397-348-579-591-610-
Forman, N. J.	307-429-631-658-
Fibra Co, Limited, The	356-417-
Fahney, Mrs. A. E.	357-
Freund & Bro. N.	358-
Fletcher, D. A.	359-
Fane & Co. S.	405-
Fischer, Prof. L.	433-
Fridiger, Miss A. M.	434-
Fingstone, N. S.	443-
Hollman, M. A.	680-

Glass Brick Co.,	7-
Godfrey, J. H.	69-
Ghegan, J. J.	105-
Gill, [illegible]	121-
Gen. Synthetic Chem. Co	424- E. P. Cement Book)
Griffiths & Co, N. F.	425 E. P. Cement Book)
Groet, L. J.	188-
Gavin, N.	177-
Germain, P.	267-
Gardner, S.	274-
Glass, [illegible]	334-
Gantz, [illegible]	401-
Gen. Chemical Co,	415-
Gay, [illegible]	454-
Gibson, [illegible]	456-
Goodwin, [illegible]	520-
Gaemard, [illegible]	527-
George, Mrs. A. J.	582-
Gudlipp, P. & K.	588-
Greenman, J. C.	592-
Globe Rubber Tire Mfg. Co.	611-
Gernberg, Dr. A.	672-
Goss, Dr. F. M.	679-
Guyon, Warren P.	681-

G

Hoover, A. E.	8-	
Hasenbalg Co.	9-	
Holliday-Jemp Co.	10-	
Hadjopoulos Sperco.	40- 386-	
Horne, Dr. E.	70- 238-	
Hazard, Dr. E.	106-	
Halbert, W.	122-	
Hagaine, A. J.	135-	
Helm, C. E.	145-	
Hamilton, Dr. A.	146-	
Harris, C. D.	159-	
Hahne & Co.	190-	
Hoover, C. B.	203-	
Heyden Chem. Co.	207- 228- 281-	
Hutzapfele, Mr and Mrs	247-	
Habicht Brunz Co.	268-	
Hecker Electrochemical Co.	275-	
Hickine, L.	316-	
Hansen, C. A.	335-	
Holladay, L. E.	360-	
Hirsh, H. A.	361-	
Hutson, J.	362-	
Houseman, L.	414-	
Havlin, E. H.	457-	
Hofheins & Gettelfinger	458-	
Hercules Powder Co.	470	
Henry, Sir. W.	521-	
Holland, Dr. E.	530	
Hill, E. G.	569-	
Hardy, F.	593-	
Herzig, M. A.	612-682	
Haws, Mrs. Chas.	643-	
Holloway, J. T.	660	
Hitchcock, R.	661-	
Hopkins, T. N.	662-	
Hengell, J. W.	695-	
Houck, Miss L. Turner	696-	

H I J K L M Mc N O P Q R S T U V W Y

Hayden, R. P. 697-

A B C D E F G H I

Louis Sieden & Co,	373.	
Creston, B. C.	489-544.	

Jordan & Co., J.	53- 216- 420- 532-
Jordan, D.	205-
Jeffcott, [illegible]	97
[illegible]	[illegible]
Jacobson, J.	149-
Jester, T. W.	531-
Jeffries, J. T.	553-
Jennings, H.	570-
Jenny, A.	571-
Janes, Miss M. P.	58-
Johnson, Mrs. D.	663-
Jepson, C.	664-

J

Johan, E.	11-
Jeith Car Co.	41-42-234-4[illegible]7-504-
Kirchner, A. M.	84-534-
Kraft, C. J.	147-
Krell, Mrs. M.	160-
Kriebel, P. E.	426- E. P. Cement Book)
Kroto, L.	224
Klipstein & Son's Co. E. C.	287-298-
Knecht, Dr. D.	312-
Katzenbach & Bullock Co.	345-
Kiendia, C. A.	438-
[illegible]	471
Keefer, G. S.	613-
Kerr, A. D.	632-
Kigg, W. W.	673-
Kegerreis, R. B.	698-

K

Lehman, B.	12-412-
Lambie, F. D.	13-
Lonard, D. J.	43-
Lozier, R. C.	44-176-646-
Lloyd, W.	55-
Lazard, L.	71-75-123 (427E P Cement Book) 474-535-537-645-
Liebold, E. C.	86- (425 E P Cement Book) 218-248-314-
Leitemann, B.	107-
Lockhart, W. J.	181-
Lawton & Co., W. A.	217-
Laurance, Dr. [illegible]	313-
Ardt, Mrs. [illegible]	336-
Lexington Spa & Springs	337-
Lewis, B. J.	358-
[illegible]	363-
[illegible]	364-
[illegible]	430-
Lincoln, C. M.	437-
Lacona Co., The	536-
Livingston, D.	555-
Lake, L. D. H.	556-1033
Lefferts, M. C.	572-
Lighthyse, J. A.	573-
Luckey, G. P.	574-
Larneyne, Miss T.	596-
Loy, [illegible]	614-
Landon, Mrs. W. J.	665-
Lewis, E. G.	666-

(CONTINUED)

Mac Laurin, Dr. R. C.	14-
Mitsui & Co.	33-45-57-89-108-(429 E. P. Cement Book) 230-293-[illegible]-460-490-538-
Macauly, C. R.	56-
Moore Chem. Co.	72-148-219-
Moore, J. L.	88-
Mulcer, E. C.	124-
Minneapolis Lead Co.	136-
Martige, Hon. J. E.	161-
Mackenzie, A. S. C.	162-
Michael Dr. & N. M.	163-
Madero, P.	430-431 E. P. Cement Book)
Morgenstern & Co.	220-
Mosher, Miss T.	221-
Marden Orth & Hastings Co.	249-
Medell, W. S.	250-
Melzer, J.	261-403-
Manly, H.	276-
Murray, T. E.	277-
Miller, W. H.	278-
Morgan, P. F.	282-
Mcleay, A. D.	331-
Mallinckrodt Chem. Works	375-
Marden-Lewell Pack. Co.	379-431-599-613-616-617-650-651-674-
Menkens, S. S.	348-
Meling, S. C.	421-
Moulton, J. A.	441-
Mackey-Wood Aniline Color Co.	491-
Marshall, Miss E. S. L.	522-
Mitsui & Co.	575-634-669-
Malone, Miss D. S.	647-

Mc Culloch, Hon. R. C.	87-	
Mc Cheeney, L. H.	109-	
Mc Laughlin Lornley King Co	448-	
Mc Lorie J.	172-	
Mc Cormick, V. C.	502-	
Mc Grath, A. J.	067-	

Mc

Nightingale, Miss A. E.	15-
Nat. Glue & Tanning Co.,	58-340-
Nitro Powder Co.,	59-
Nitzer, A. E.	73-
N.Y. Quinine and Chem. Wks.	90-164-473-
Norwood, E. G.	110-
Navy Dept. Chief Clerk	174-
Newton, L. S.	251-
Nat Gum & Mica Co.,	299-540-
North Amer. Products Co.,	341-
Nelson Broom Mfg. Assn.	474-
Neubauer, L. M.	539-

Ogle, Mrs. J. H.	91-	
Oakdyke, C. H.	92 - 311 - 541-	
Otto, Dr. A.	165 - 648-	
Oldham, [illegible]	432 (P. Cemetery Book)	
Olymer, A. S.	315-	
Orton, A. D.	135-	
Osborn, H. F.	649-	

Packard, R. G.	16-
Powers-Weightman-Rosengarten Co.,	93-222-644-
Press Illustrating Service	111-
Preparedness Bazaar	137-
Photoplay League The	166-
Philippus, A. L.	167-
Putnams Sons, G. P.	204-
Phonograph Co. of Detroit	258-259-
Patton Paint Co.,	279-
Parep Manufacturing Co.	342-
Podlak, Miss M. J.	343-
Phelan, J. T.	352-699½-
Proudfoot Commercial Agency	370-407-
Prescott, M. M.	422-
Power, W. & C. M. C.	450-
Prowse, C. J.	510-618-
Pyro Chem. Co.,	523-
Phinney, Miss B. S.	542-
Perry, J. B.	576-

P

Quinn, O. L. 442-

Q

Rendell, Miss E.	17-
Renalds, R.	94-635-
Renfrew Manufacturing Co.	165-
Rich, Miss Q. M.	191-
Roberts, D.	252-
Richards, B. G.	362-
Rockefeller Institute, The	288-
Romano, L.	290-
Rinke, Mrs. M. R.	317-
Roth, C. H.	314- 404-
Rawling, C. E.	365-
Rand, C. F.	366-
Rankin, W. H.	383-
Randall, C. J.	452-
Rartin, C. S.	461-
Ruckler, C. M.	462-
Rosenberg, A.	494-
Rorison, J. G.	561- 619-
Reetz, R. J.	563-
Rolph, Eton J.	577-
Richardson, Drug Co.	578-
Robbin, A. G.	689-
Racine Rubber Co.	700-

R

Segraves, J. M. 18-
Sawyer, A. H. 19- 126 378-652-
Std. Printing Ink Co. 20-
Ussex Rubber Co. 21-
Steinmetz, J. A. 22-
Scotland Neck Cotton Mills 23-170-271-
Std. Car Construction Co. 46-
Schmulowitz, Starobinard & Co. 47-
Stein, Reich & Co. 60- 80-96-263-272-283-289-367-380-495-543-
Schroeder, A. 61-
Sheller, A. 62-
Sudeiley, C. 63-
Strain-Butler and Hancock 74-142-
Stoner, Miss D. S. 95-
Squibb & Sons E. R. 112- 432-
Seaman, H. 113-461-
Smith, H. E. 114-115-
Schoonmaker, R. T. 116-
Stevens, C. 138-194-400-
Sherman, C. R. 169-
Salmon & Co. A. N. 175- 476-
Schiffelin & Co. 177-
Scannell, J. J. 178-
Savage, L. S. 179-
Sedgwick, E. 193-
Simmons, O. 197-
Scannell, J. J. 226-
Sowers, J. S. 227-
Syll & Co. L. R. 253-
Stone, L. S. 254-
Sailer, C. H. 269-
Seneca Camera Mfg. Co. 270-
Schunk, Miss R. 300-
Smith, J. E. 305-
Shoenfeld & Co. L. B. 345-384-
Spies, C. B. 423-
Sill, A. M. 424-

S

Stephens, C. V.	425-
Sherman, W. C.	449-
Shepard, Rev. E. D.	467-
Sparks, J. C.	475-
Scott, H. M.	477-
Schaumdlflinger	493-
Std. Foundry Co.	505-
Snowber, J. L.	509-
Street Co. R. R.	544-
Struthers Wells Co.	547-
Shattuck, Mrs. L. M.	557-
Swain, M.	597-
Schatzberg, S. C.	598-
Smith, H. W.	620-
Schuck, W. P.	621-
Schmidt, G. N.	622-684-
Shelton, W. T.	637-
Smith, A. E.	672-685-
Stanley, Patterson	697½-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M Mc N O P Q R S T

Tomlinson Bros., 24-
Treaholt, M. 25-
Thompson, J. H. 26-
Trade News Service 97-139-180- 223-329-
Thomas Pub. Co., 117-
Turner, C. 127-
Taylor, A. P. 128-
Tracy, O. E. 255-440-
Trenka, Dr. O. 306-
Tolds Co., J. J. 346-
Technology Sales Co., Inc. 365-504 600-
Tracey, C. M. 370
Tee, C. A. 426-545-
Tolhurst Vacuum Co., 496-
Traudt, A. 579-

U. S. Smelting Co. Inc.	149-256-
Union Chemical & Refining Co.	310-
Unpokuhay Revenue	601-
Union Pacific Ry. Co.	695½-

U

Vandeweghe Bros.	27-580-	
Valentine Electsign Co.	195-602-	
Vidal, C.	315-670-	
Van Nostrand & Co., J	396-480-	
Vallighny, L. P.	497-	
Ventor, Mrs. M. F.	603-	
Van Middlesworth, J. A.	668-	

Williams, J.	28-64-
Williams & Son, R. S.	29-
Whiting, F. A.	30-264-410-411-436-498-581-671-
Wheeler, E. C.	31-
Walmsley, N. B.	32-
Wakeman, J. T.	65-
Watrous, Mrs. A. E.	129-
Wittstein, C. T.	140-
Williams & Co. J. R.	171-
Whitman, W. G.	172-
Weeks, C. C.	198-
Ward, C. W.	205-
White, W. L.	209-
Williamsburg Chem. Co,	231-
Wilson, E. J.	257-404-678
Watrous, A. E.	291-
Weller, F. R.	301-
Waldrich Bleachery	371-
Wyatt, W. M.	372-
White, Mrs. J. E.	376-
Wenzer, W.	377-
Waldo, E. Mc T.	391-444-
Wrighton, S. L.	434-
Walkers Lizon	463-
Weston, G. X.	465-
Western Fur Dressing & Dyeing Co,	481-
Woodward, B. D.	500-
Wedge Copper Mining Co,	508-
Wallace, J. A.	524-
Walker, S.	546-
Walker, Mrs. M. B.	558-
Wrench, C. A.	559-
Williams, D.	604-
Warren, S. L.	623-
Webb & Co, C.	624-

Zobel Co., C.	381,–	
Zobel, J. F.	427–	

Septem

[13]

Mr. F. D. Lambie,
61 Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Lambie:

On my return from a short vacation I have received your favor of the fifth instant. I must ask you and Mr. Ingersoll to kindly excuse me from having my name appear among those selected by Mr. Ingersoll. I want to keep out of politics.

Yours very truly,

Trust

September 12th.1916.

Dr. Richard C. Maclaurin,
Seal Harbor, Maine.

Dear Dr. Maclaurin:

On returning from a short vacation I find your favor of the 29th ultimo, which I have read with much interest.

When I next see Mr. Ford I will sound him on the matter that you mention, and see what he will do in regard thereto. Let me suggest that you should try Schwab and also the two DuPonts. They have all recently made millions on technology.

I myself would help if I could, but my big fire about used me up financially, and I am having a hard struggle to get on my feet again.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Trust

September 12th.1916.

Miss Florence E. Nightingale,
156 High Street,
Danvers, Mass.

Dear Madam:

I thank you for your kind and complimentary favor of the fifth instant, which is much appreciated.

I am inclined to think that you are right, that many people would be glad to have records of Quadrills with a voice in them calling off the figures. The same remarks would apply to the Virginia Reel. I will look into this matter and see if we cannot get out some records of this kind.

Yours very truly,

Trust

September 12th.19

Mr. Jos. A. Steinmetz,
Bellevue-Stratford,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Steinmetz:

I have received your favor of the fifth instant, on my return from a short vacation. Let me say in reply that I shall be glad to see Mr. Spitz if he will call over at the Laboratory.

For your information let me say that I expect to be here all this week, but expect I may be absent from the Laboratory on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week.

Please ask Mr. Spitz to get in communication with my Assistant, Mr. W. H. Meadowcroft, at this address.

Yours very truly,

September 12th. 1916.

Mr. N. Traaholt,
% Skiensfjordens kommunale kraftselskap Driftsbestyrereh,
Porsgrund, Norway.

Dear Mr. Traaholt:

I have received your favor of the 16th ultimo, and am glad to learn that you are doing so well.

As to the Edison Storage Battery, let me say that there is an English Company called the Edison Accumulators, Ltd., 2 & 3 Duke Street, off Picadilly, London, S. W., England. They can supply my batteries, and they are doing a very large business in England on account of the shortage of horses and the high prices of petrol. I advise you to get in touch with them, as they are a very lively concern. They have many types of vehicles.

I trust that you will continue to prosper and make substantial progress with your business, and hope that I may hear through our English Company that you have been able to awaken a lively interest in these lines.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

264

September 12th.1

Mr. Frederic A. Whiting,
Ogunquit, Maine.

Dear Mr. Whiting:

On my return from a short vacation I have received your favor of the first instant, which has been read with a great deal of interest. You certainly must have derived a good deal of enjoyment from the incident you mention. Your point was certainly a good one.

Allow me to thank you for the suggestive advertisement which you kindly enclosed in your letter. It is fine, and I am sending it to my people so that they may take advantage of your suggestion.

Yours very truly,

September 12th.191

Mr. W. B. Walmsley,
1611 N. Bailey Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the seventh instant has been received, and I thank you for the good words you are pleased to say about the Diamond Disc Phonograph. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to learn that you enjoy it so much.

I have never heard the selections "Old Comrads March", in fact the composition is not known to us, but I will get it at one of the music stores, and if it is found suitable we will record it and put it on a future list.

Yours very truly,

September 13th. 1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Attention of Mr. Shunzo Takaki.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 11th instant in regard to the Phenol which reached Japan in a bad condition has been received.

Mr. Edison has returned from his vacation, and I am awaiting the nine sample bottles which your man brought back from Japan. As soon as these are received I shall bring the matter to his attention, and I think that he will possibly desire to have you come and talk it over with him. However, as to that I will let you know either by letter or telephone.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

33/54

September 14th.1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Attention of Mr. Shunzo Takaki.

Gentlemen:

From the operating reports of the Woodward Benzol Plant we see that they produced 3600 gallons of pure Toluol during the month of August, which is an average of 115 gallons per day. Mr. Edison wishes me to ask whether you have a sufficient surplus on hand to make up your quantity for the Hercules people, or will you want some more from him.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

September 14th. 1916.

Schmulowitz, Starobin & Dubin,
715 Herkimer Street,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the ninth instant has been received. We regret exceedingly to learn that you have had any complaints in regard to the furs dyed with our Paraphenylenediamine. We do not see why there should be any complaint of this nature, as we have never changed our process of manufacture.

We had a complaint from a customer a week or two ago, and sent our chemist down to the customer's place to investigate. He found that some of their other raw materials were of an inferior quality, which had possibly caused the trouble.

Might there not be something of this kind in your case? If by an possibility there has been a mistake in any material that we shipped to you we are not aware of it, but we value your patronage and very much wish to retain it. Mr. Edison is personally investigating the matter.

If there is any chance of our being in any way partially to blame, we are willing to make some adjustment with you by sending you without charge some Paraphenylenediamine. Please let me know your views on this subject, and I will take the matter up with Mr. Edison.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

45
19

September 15th.1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City. Attention of Mr. Takaki.

Gentlemen:

We have sent you from our Silver Lake Plant, as per request of your Mr. Nomura, samples of ten drums selected at random from forty-seven drums of Phenol which are now ready to ship to Japan under our contracts with you. These forty-seven drums will be the September quota on such contracts.

Will you please send us shipping directions for these forty-seven drums, and oblige,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

September 15th.19

Mr. Howard Shelley,
% Hotel Navarre,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Shelley:

I received your favor of the 11th instant, and have consulted with Mr. Edison about it. He says that he would like to have the young American soprano make a trial record at our Recording Rooms in New York City. The address is 79 Fifth Avenue, and the Manager is Mr. Walter H. Miller. If you will kindly see Mr. Miller and show him this letter, he will make the necessary arrangements and send the trial record over to Mr. Edison to hear and pass upon.

I am glad to hear from you again and with kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

25

September 14th.1916.

Mr. George Williams,
℅ Henry L. Doherty & Co.,
60 Wall Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Williams:

Mr. Meadowcroft has shown me your favor of the 11th instant, which has interested me very much. Will you please tell Mr. Doherty that I will accept one of the electrical flags with much pleasure, and will keep it going at nights regularly.

With thanks and kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

September 15th.1916.

Mr. Charles E. Austen,
Sabetha, Kan.

Dear Sir:

I have received your favor of the first instant, and wish to express my thanks to you for the kind things that you are pleased to say about me.

The way of the inventor is hard, but if you are going to follow it, the best advice I can give you is to prepare yourself for lots of work and plenty of disappointments, all of which are compensated for when you achieve success.

I am sending you a photograph as you desire, and wish you good luck on the journey.

Yours very truly,

September 14th.1916.

Mr. J. D. Adams,
% Williams & Carroll Corporation,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Adams:

Allow me to thank you for your very nice letter of the ninth instant. I have the pleasure of receiving many unsolicited letters of the kind you have written me, and they come as something of a recompense for my many years of hard work in striving to satisfy real lovers of good music. Your letter is very gratifying and has given me much pleasure.

Would you have any objections if I were to have your letter published in a little magazine which is devoted to the Disc Phonograph?

Yours very truly,

September 15th.1916.

Mr. C. C. Coomer,
448 Washington Avenue,
Belleville, N. J.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 12th instant, and would say in reply that Catarrahal deafness is almost impossible to cure. By washing out the ear with one-half per cent solution of peroxide of hydrogen two or three times a week, and stop eating of meat and cutting down of amount of food is a good way of arresting the progress of catarrahal deafness.

Yours very truly,

Dr. Lowell C. Frost,
6400 Hollywood Boulevard,
Los Angeles, Cal.

September 15th.1916.

Dear Sir:

Your very interesting letter of the second instant has been handed to me, and I want to thank you for the frank and intelligent express of opinion therein.

Let me say in partial reply that we have been so very busy in developing proper recording and machinery for production that we have not really paid much attention to catalogues.

I have recently completed a large studio containing special sound apparatus, such as a semi-spherical reflector, forty-two feet in diameter, made of concrete. This is a part of the studio. I hope to record all the works of Beethoven, Brahm, Bach and the other Masters in due time, and when I have produced a large number of them I shall then be able to attend to the production of a proper catalogue that I hope will be worthy of the name.

In reference to your remarks about Albert Spaulding, Elman and Kreisler, I want to say that if you will study closely each note of the many records of each player, you will notice that Spaulding's technique through the scale is far better than either Elman or Kreisler. As to interpretation, that is a different matter. Each artist has his own.

I am rather surprised that at this late date you place Schumann-Heink so high as a singer. She had a fine voice years ago, but today it is full of glaring flaws, although her interpretation is good.

I really believe that we have the best voices that are known, outside of Caruso. There are some artists who have great reputations, but their voices are very inferior, although they may be good actors or actresses and of pleasing personality. Personally I do not consider that these should be put on a phonograph even for advertising purposes.

Would you mind naming those whom you consider as great artists and who have good voices and interpretation. Of course, I mean those that are not in our catalogue.

Yours very truly,

Kept
218

September 18th.1916.

Mr. E. G. Liebold,
Secretary to HENRY FORD,
Detroit, Mich.

My dear Mr. Liebold:

Mr. Edison wishes me to ask you to kindly tell Edsel Ford that he may send on that Hawaiian quartet next week, and Mr. Edison will be ready for them.

I suppose it would be well to let me know when they will be expected, so that I can look out for them.

Yours very truly,

Assistantto Mr. Edison.

September 15th.1916.

Hon. Roscoe C. McCulloch,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I received your favor of the seventh instant, and have read your speech on the Tariff question with a good deal of interest.

I think your arguments are sound, but, even if carried out, the plan could and would be entirely nullified by the scheme of "dumping".

I originated this scheme thirty-two years ago, and sold incandescent lamps all over Europe below the cost of production at that time. I started, and it was followed soon after by two other concerns. In fifteen years it became universal.

Yours very truly,

Trust

September 15th.1916.

Mrs. J. H. Oggle,
Glen Ellyn, Ill.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 12th instant was received. In reply I beg to say that as to the automatic stop on the phonograph, we found that not more than one owner in four hundred ever used it other than as a final stop. Next year we expect to have an electric stop, which can be put on any machine.

Yours very truly,

September 19th.1916.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Attention of Mr. Takaki.

Gentlemen:

We received your favor of the 15th instant enclosing a letter of the American Oil & Supply Company together with their invoice for $5,393.42 to cover an arbitration allowance on three shipments of Naphthaline Flakes.

We have had rather an unfortunate experience in regard to the Naphthaline Flakes made at the Woodward Plant. It was owing to our lack of experience in the Naphthaline business. We shipped out a number of cars of Naphthaline Flakes which were complained of when received as being off-color and not prime goods, and, as you know, we have made several allowances already on three cars.

The three shipments covered by this arbitration allowance were received by the customer and complaint was made, but nothing was done about it for sometime, and they threatened to throw the shipment back on our hands and stand suit. The American Oil & Supply Company with great difficulty persuaded them to consent to an arbitration, and the result is shown by the American Oil & Supply Company's bill based upon the arbitrator's award, copy of which is herewith returned with said bill and letter of the American Oil & Supply Company. Mr. Edison thinks that we have come out of this affair satisfactorily under the circumstances, and even after paying this arbitration award there is still some profit left on the original transaction.

We would suggest, therefore, that you pay this amount, $5,393.42, to the American Oil & Supply Company and debit our Woodward Plant account. Inasmuch as the Woodward Iron Company originally received one-half the money on the invoices covering the original shipment, one-half of the $5,393.42 should be billed to them. We believe this ought to close the unfortunate part of our Naphthaline business, as we think we have now made allowance on every car of the original shipments. Now that we are re-subliming the Naphthaline and producing prime goods we do not anticipate any further trouble in this direction.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosures.

114

September 19th.1916

Mr. Herbert E. Smith, Secretary,
Woodward Iron Company,
Woodward, Ala.

Dear Mr. Smith:

Your favor of the 14th instant in regard to flaked Naphthaline has been received. I am sorry to say that market is overloaded, as there are now a great many producers. However, you will have learned by the time this letter reaches you that we have sold a carload. Mr. Edison was approached on the subject of a possible contract for six to twelve months at 5 1/2 cents per pound, and as this figure allows a very good margin of profit, he has looked upon the matter favorably, feeling sure that you would be inclined to agree with his judgment in the matter. The prospective customer wanted to have a trial carload at this price, and Mr. Edison closed the deal and we sold it, as it was also being offered from other quarters. I have, therefore, telegraphed Mr. Opdyke today to ship a carload of 20 tons at this price. I suppose you will be glad of it, as quite a stock has accumulated.

The question now is whether you are willing on your part to contract for your half of the entire production for six months or a year at 5 1/2 cents per pound, F. O. B. New York City So far as Mr. Edison is concerned he is inclined to make such a contract in regard to his half.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Reject

September 21st.1916.

Mr. U. F. Anger,
369 East Water Street,
Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 7th instant has been received and laid before Mr. Edison. He wishes us to write in reply and suggest to you to wash the disc records only with alcohol. Just make a cloth damp with it and after rubbing over the record, wipe dry. This will not reduce the noise except they should be dirty.

We are constantly improving the surface noise of the records and hope in time to get rid of it altogether. The great trouble is to bring out the overtones (which give the quality) and at the same time get the surface smooth. If a reproducer is made insensitive enough to render the noise inaudible, we lose some of the overtones and impair the quality.

Your Amberola reproducer has not yet been received. If we find it faulty when it comes to hand we will send you another one to replace it.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Tesla

September 20th.1916.

Mr. William H. Baker,
% Western Union Telegraph Company,
195 Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Baker:

Allow me to express my sincere appreciation of the cordial invitation extended to me by the Banquet Committee and yourself to attend the Banquet at the Hotel Astor on September 28th. It is with a great deal of reluctance and regret that I am compelled to ask you all to kindly excuse me. I have an immense amount of important experiments on hand just now, and have found that even very mild dissipation effects my nerves, upsets my stomach and makes me almost useless for a week afterward.

It is very important for my business interests that I should have no delay in the work on which I am at present engaged, so I dare not take the risk of losing any time. I shall miss the fun and enjoyment of the evening, but that will have to be my loss.

Awaiting the pleasure of seeing you and many other of our friends on Wednesday the 27th instant, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Tarbet

September 22nd.1916

Mr. W. A. Hamilton,
2508 Seventh Avenue,
Beaver Falls, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 16th instant has been received. Let me say in reply that there is a mill in operation somewhere in Colorado, I believe, but I am unable to give you the address. It is owned by some Detroit people whom Mr. Clifford interested. I have heard that Mr. Clifford died several months ago leaving his affairs in very bad shape.

Yours very truly,

Private Secretary.

Trust

September 21st.1916.

Hon. James E. Martine,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Martine:

I have received your favor of the fifteenth instant enclosing copy of a letter sent by you to Mr. Charles Holzhauer of Newark, and thank you therefor.

I am delighted to learn that you intend to give your support to the measure which is intended to prevent dishonest advertising.

Yours very truly,

September 22nd.1916.

Mr. Charles R. Sherman,
% The Glue Specialties Co.,
201 Devonshire Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Sherman:

I am glad to have received your letter, as it brings to my mind many pleasant remembrances of my younger days. My old telegraph days stand out very clearly in my memory, I remember quite perfectly you and all the others that you mention, but you left out Burns and Joe LeBonte, and also the midnight coffee man. No doubt you remember these as well as I do.

I do not see why you should not be called a veteran telegrapher, and if you come over with the others next week, Wednesday, I shall be glad to see you.

Yours very truly,

September 25th.1916.

Mr. Alphonso T. Clearwater,
Kingston, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Clearwater:

Replying to your favor of the 22nd instant, let me say that science has not yet determined what electricity is.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

September 25th.1916.

Mr. H. H. Gross, President,
Tariff Commission League,
1322 First National Bank Building,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Gross:

I have received your favor of the 20th instant enclosing final report on the work of the Tariff Commission League, and I want to congratulate you and the League for the great work that has been done in gaining for the country a permanent Tariff Commission. If everything works as it should, this will result in enormous benefit to the United States of America.

Yours very truly,

September 23rd.1916.

Mr. O. Simmons, Vice President,
Phonographs, Inc.,
63 North Pryor Street,
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mr. Simmons:

I have received your favor of the 19th instant, and have found it very interesting. It gives me great pleasure to learn that you are so nearly ready to open your new retail store in Atlanta.

It would give me a great deal of pleasure to be present at the opening, but I could not possibly leave my work for the length of time that would be necessary. For the next three months I am planning to be very busy in my new steel recording laboratory where I expect to produce some very fine music for our records.

Incidentally, I am glad to say that we are turning out records at a much greater rate than before, and from now on I am quite confident there will not be any scarcity, as our troubles are about over.

I trust that your opening will be very sucessful and that the business following it will more than meet your expectations.

Yours very truly,

86
248

September 28th.1916.

Mr. E. G. Liebold,
Secretary to HENRY FORD,
Detroit, Mich.

My dear Mr. Liebold:

Our people at the Chemical Plants are interested in the question of small delivery trucks, and they have heard that Mr. Ford is about to put one out very soon. Have you any information on this point that you would like to give out at present, as to probable time of delivery and price.

Yours very truly,

First

September 28th.1916.

Miss Thirza Mosher,
408 N. Fifth Avenue,
Maywood, Ill.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 24th instant has been received. We beg to say in reply that before we can make any arrangements with singers to sing for our records, a trial record must first be made and submitted to the Music Committee to pass upon. We have only one Recording Studio, and that is in New York City. We do not pay the expenses of singers coming to make trial records, but if you should happen to be in New York at some future time you could take this letter to Mr. W. H. Miller, the Manager of our Recording Studio, 79 Fifth Avenue, and he would have a trial record made, which would be regularly submitted for criticism in the usual way.

We would say for your information that we have already looked into the matter of recording some Christian Science hymns.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

212/285

September 29th.1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
% Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Mr. Bacon:

I suppose by Monday you can figure out for me your average production of Toluol per day for five or six months ending September 30th, 1916. Please do this carefully, as I may want to make a contract to sell the remainder of our production over and above what we supply to Du Pont.

When does your next carload go to Du Pont Company?

Yours very truly,

W. Miller

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Thank

September 28th.1916.

Mr. Dwight Roberts,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Allow me to thank you for the kind offer contained in your favor of the 25th instant. Just at this time I do not remember the cartoon, and I am quite sure that I have not got it in my collection. I shall be very much pleased to accept it if you wish to send it to me.

There is such a mass of matter coming here addressed in my name that I think it would be safer to address it to my Assistant, Mr. W. H. Meadowcroft at this address, and he will hand it to me in person.

Yours very truly,

258

September 25, 1916.

The Phonograph Company of Detroit,
Detroit, Michigan.

Gentlemen:

I believe these Conventions of Dealers are good things. Give my best wishes to all of your Dealers.

The Disc Record situation is now very satisfactory. We are commencing to make inroads on the back orders for catalog numbers. The surface is getting better all the time. You have probably noticed the more brilliant tone of the records made by the new technique. This increased brilliancy is due to the fact that the surface on the new records permits even the faintest overtone to be heard.

Tell your Dealers that they don't need to worry about the supply of records. If they want to worry about anything, let them worry about getting instruments this fall. We are doing our best, but the people who hold off too long are likely to have trouble in getting all they need.

We are noticing a very big revival in the Cylinder business, and the Diamond Amberola line is something that deserves the attention of all of your Dealers.

Yours truly,

Thos A Edison

Thank

403

September 29th.1916.

Mr. A. Melzer,
105 West 70th Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Melzer:

Let me thank you for the photographs which you so kindly sent me. You must have a very fine lense in your camera, for the photographs are splendid.

Yours very truly,

Taft

September 30th.1916.

Mr. Bernard S. Richards, Secretary,
American Jewish Congress,
1 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the 27th instant, let me say that I am in favor of having a Jewish Congress, as well as every other device that the Jews can think of, in order to obtain their rights. I believe the day is not far distant when men will not be persecuted for wanting to go to Heaven in their own way and not in some other people's way.

Yours very truly,

30

410

September 30th.1916.

Mr. Frederic A. Whiting,
Framingham Center, Mass.

Dear Mr. Whiting:

I have received your very interesting favor of the 26th instant. It has afforded me much pleasure.

I have written to our Recording Department to obtain for you a copy of our arrangement of "I Hear You Calling Me". It may be a few days before I receive it, but kindly be a little patient about it.

Now in regard to helping out Mr. Wrightson to getting an instrument on terms he can afford, let me say that we are so strongly tied up by contracts with our dealers not to sell below list prices that the matter cannot be arrange direct, but I will find some way so that Mr. Wrightson can get a phonograph on terms that will suit him.

Yours very truly,

232

296

October 4, 1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
c/o Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Mr. Bacon:

I beg to thank you for your favor of the 30 instant giving me the average carload production per day. This is very satisfactory.

I think you will be delighted to receive either today or tomorrow an order to ship about eight thousand gallons. We have had quite a time in selling it, but it is gone at last, I firmly believe.

That was certainly a fine distillation sheet on the five gallons that you sent, and I am glad to hear that you have so much of the same high quality. That is one thing that we must certainly keep up, a strictly fine quality of our Toluol. Mr. Edison is guaranteeing it to be very high class stuff.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Trust

October 4, 1916.

Prof. Luigi Romano,
Box 27, Station S,
New York City.

My dear Professor:

At last I have been able to receive and answer from Mrs. Edison. She says she wishes me to say that if it will not cause no extra trouble to you, she would be pleased to receive the autograph-photograph of the Pope, as mentioned by you.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

October 4, 1916.

Miss Rose Schunk,
209 Peshine Ave.,
Newark, N.J.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 2d instant to Mr. Edison has been received. He requests us to say that you may go over to our Recording Studio, 79 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and they will make a regular voice trial and send it over here to be passed upon in the usual way.

Please present this note to Mr. W. H.Miller, the Manager of the Studio.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

302
392

October 5, 1916.

American Oil & Supply Co.,
92 William Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen: Attention of Mr. A. E. Jones.

Replying to your favor of the 20th ultimo. Our General Counsel, Mr. Holden, called upon you recently and advises that he was informed by you that you do not dispose of any paramidophenol which you obtain from us to Mr. Gennert or anyone else except in the original packages in which it is shipped by us; that Mr. Gennert does not use any of this material in the manufacture of any photographic developer; that he does not dispose of same except in the original packages, nor with the knowledge or intent that it is to be used with such ingredients as will form the combination or composition covered by U.S.Patent No. 1,158,011; nor does he or any of his employes inform customers that sodium hydrate or caustic soda should be added to thismaterial; that he merely sells it as a photographic developer which may be used in various ways according to the preference of the purchaser. I understand that there are numerous formulas well known in the art in which this material may be used as a photographic developer which in no way infringe the aforesaid patent. We are therefore unable tosee how the sale of the material mentioned can be held to in any way constitute a contributory infringement of the aforesaid patent.

Yours very truly,

245

October 6, 1916.

Mr. E. G. Liebold,
Secretary to HENRY FORD,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Liebold:

I have received this morning your favor of the 3d instant, and have shown it to Mr. Edison. He is pleased to learn that you have now made some definite arrangement about the Hawaiians, and now I shall await your further letter saying what date they will leave for New York.

Very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

October 6, 1916.

Mrs. Marie L. Ranke,
Honorary Secretary,
The American-European
Blind War Relief Fund,
Hotel Majestic,
West 72d Street,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of August 8th was received here at the Laboratory two days ago. To make a new check will involve a change in accounts that have been closed up. So you can avoid this trouble by endorsing the check twice, once in the old name and another in the new name. We therefore return the check herewith.

Mr. and Mrs. Edison beg to be excused from having their names used officially in connection with the fund. They find that such use of their names invariably brings upon them avalanche of mail which adds to their duties, now more than heavy.

Yours very truly,

Asst. to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

Trust
319

October 5, 1916.

Mr. A. I. Clymer,

Van Wert, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Clymer:

Please pardon the few days delay in replying to your favor of the 20th ultimo. This little delay has been caused by my submitting your question about Motion Picture Machines to our experts.

Taking up the matters in the orders given in your letter, let me say in regard to the Phonograph that we have iron-bound contracts with Jobbers and Dealers. These contracts prevent us from furnishing a machine and records at a discount, but I will personally contribute the difference between what it costs the dealer and the regular list price for an Edison Phonograph and twenty-five Records for your Y.M.C.A.

If, therefore, you decide to buy one of our Phonographs and some Records, please let me know what you pay for it and I will send my check for the difference, as a personal contribution to the Y.M.C.A.

Now in regard to your questions concerning the Motion Picture Machine, let me give you below a copy of the report of our Expert:

318
320

"I would strongly recommend the installation of a motor-generator for the following reasons:

1. Flicker reduced to a minimum.
2. Very little noise.
3. Better illumination.
4. Easier to keep light steady.

The D.C. arc lamp is peculiarly adaptable to optical projection, because a "crater" of great light intensity forms on the positive carbon, from which point the light is gathered by the condensor lense as shown in sketch

In the A. C. arc, both carbons are equally heated and instead of forming a crater, the light has a tendency to travel about the carbon points, as shown

In other words, A.C. not forming a critical source of illumination, the light spreads in all directions and only a small portion is gathered up by the condensor.

Another fault with the A. C. arc, is when the shutter on the projecting machine gets in synchronism with the alternations, the effect on the screen is very bad. - The D. C. being continuous, this cannot happen.

There is always a decided hum in the A.C. arc.

The motor-generator naturally requires more attention than the compens arc because it has moving parts (commutator, shaft and bearings) but so long as the commutator is kept clean, and the bearings properly oiled, little trouble should be experienced.

The cost of current consumption when screen illumination is considered, will be about the same.

The compens arc will produce more current than the motor-generator, but as I explained before, this current (A.C.) is not so efficient for optical projection"

I trust the above will be of some help to you,

319

484

and that it may assist you in solving the problem that confronts your friends.

Very truly yours,

Thos. A. Edison

xx

October 7, 1916.

Miss Margaret G. Pollak,
45 Pleasent Street,
Danbury, Conn.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 27th ultimo was brought to Mr. Edison's personal attention, and he has requested me to write and ask you if you will kindly send to me for him, half-dozen of the records which you state have swelled up and cracked. He has a curiosity to learn how they swelled up as we never had any complaint of this kind. Mr. Edison will send you new records for those which have any defect of this kind.

Please address the package to me and I will bring the records to Mr. Edison's personal attention.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

October 7, 1916.

Mr. C. Bakels, c/o
Quackenbush & Company,
Paterson, New Jersey.

Dear Sir:-

I am always glad to hear from the practical men who are out in the field looking after my Phonographs or other products.

Let me say in reply to your letter that we already have an electrical stop which we intend putting on the instruments next year. If you have anything cheaper and as good as ours, we shall be glad to see it. You can come over here and see Mr. John Constable or my son, Mr. Charles Edison.

Yours very truly,

Trust

October 7, 1916.

Mr. A. E. Estler,
Tacoma, Washington.

Dear Mr. Estler:

I have received your favor of the 27th ultimo, in regard to Mrs. MacClellan Barto, and have spokento Mr. Edison about this lady. When she comes to the Laboratory, I will see her and give her a letter to the Manager of our Recording Studio in New York so that she may go over and make a regular voice trial under proper auspices. I am glad to hear from Mr. Riley that you are getting along so nicely, and hope that you will continue to keep up the good record that you have made.

With kindest regards and best wishes to you and Mrs. Estler, I remain,

Yours very truly,

October 9, 1916.

Mrs. J. E. White,
94 Jameson Avenue,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Madam:

Your kind note of the 3d instant, has offered me a great deal of pleasure, as I am always pleased to learn that lovers of good music derive enjoyment from the Diamond Disc Phonographs and Records.

I also am very fond of classical music, and am preparing to put out a great deal of it on records. When my new Recording Studio is finished I expect to record the Sonata Pathetique and all the symphonies of Beethoven.

Yours very truly,

309
417

October 11, 1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
c/o Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Mr. Bacon:

I see that according to your report of yesterday that you have on hand 9483 gallons of pure Toluol. I think this must be a mistake, as you do not seem to have deducted from any of your reports the shipment made to The Marsden-Sewell Corporation, last Saturday, amounting to 4917 gallons.

If my assumption is correct, this would really leave you with 4566 gallons of pure Toluol on hand at the date of yesterday's report. I am just writing this to make sure, because I want to figure on selling Toluol up pretty close to production for the remainder of this year. Of course we have our contract with the Du Pont, but that leaves us with some over and it is the excess I want to sell. Please let me hear from you about the above.

When you send 90% Benzol to Silver Lake, we distill it, and of course have Benzol Heads and Tails; and Toluol, and Toluol Heads and Tails, etc.. We get pure Benzol, but the Toluol is in too small a quantity for us to refine it to the point where the quality becomes as good as yours. I think I shall ask Mr. Edison whether we cannot send it to you in the drums and let it go in with yours.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Trust

October 9, 1916.

Mr. S. Stanwood Menken,
Chairman Executive Committee,
The National Security League, Inc.,
Thirty-one Pine Street, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I am strongly in favor of compulsory military education for every healthy young man in the United States. Six weeks in each year for five years.

Yours very truly,

261

October 11, 1916.

Mr. [illegible] Donner,
[illegible] Ferry,
West Virginia.

Dear Mr. Donner:

I have received your note of the ninth instant. As a matter of fact, I was a little backward to praise your personal part of the work in the photographs you sent me, but that I was putting it deliberately in saying that you had a very fine lens. Of course, I knew that with the finest lens in the world a Photographer must also be good to make good pictures.

As a proof to you that I like your photographs, let me say that if you would not mind sending me some views of the Tennessee Mountain scenery taken by yourself, I shall appreciate it very much.

Yours very truly,

293

October 11, 1916.

Mitsui & Co., Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. Shunzo Takaki.

I have received your favor of the [illegible] instant, and have been much interested in a careful perusal of the same.

Let me say in reply that according to present indications, I believe I shall be able to [illegible] the Woodward Benzol for the year 1917 at 55¢ per gallon for the first six months and 50¢ per gallon for the last six months of the year.

You can sell all the Toluol for $2.[illegible] per gallon, or better. If you can do so I shall be quite satisfied - even $1.75 a gallon would be satisfactory, so far as I am concerned.

Yours very truly,

410

436

October 11, 1916.

Mr. F. Allen Whiting, Director,
The Cleveland Museum of Art,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Whiting:

I have been much interested in reading your favor of the 4th instant, and deeply appreciate the highly intelligent handling of the Diamond Disc Phonograph in the Museum. I think you are entitled to sincere congratulations upon the splendid results attained, and I wish to thank you for taking the pains to present the music under such favorable auspices. Please accept my thanks also for the illustrated edition of the catalogue, which you sent me a short time ago.

Yours very truly,

Test 4
487

October 13, 1916.

Mr. Stanley Doggett,
11 Cliff Street,
New York City,
New York.

Dear Mr. Doggett:

Don't you think I am entitled to a little more consideration than I am receiving at your hands? I feel somewhat disappointed at the way you have handled the Aniline Oil matter, for I have patiently waited instructions from you about shipping the Oil due you, but none materialize. I made a reduction in price to you, and have been giving free storage for some of your Aniline Oil since July.

Our contract runs to the end of this year. On the strength of it and similar contracts I bought all my raw materials for the year at top notch prices, and shall make all my contract Aniline Oil to December 31st. Every one of my numerous contract customers is taking their full quota right along, except you.

Can't you move this Aniline Oil now? If not, I think it is only fair for you to pay for what I have been storing for you since July and also pay for the remainder as per contract, namely, at the rate of a drum a day.

Please let me hear from you quickly.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Fair

October 12, 1916.

Mr. S. C. Maline,
4900 Woodland Ave.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 7th instant, let me say that the Germans are using shells containing the pollen of a South American weed, which is far more powerful than Cayenne Pepper.

Try again!

Very truly yours,

First

October 12, 1916.

Mr. Julius H. Zobel,
c/o The First State Bank of Floodwood,
Floodwood, Minnesota.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 8th instant has been received. You ask if I know of any chemical which, when injected into the stump of a tree would cause rapid deterioration. I do not know of any chemical that would do it quick enough.. I suggest that a practical way of removing the tree stumps would be to use sheet iron cones, with chimney attached and then set the stumps on fire. They would burn to the ground and separate the main roots. I have had a rough sketch made of such an arrangement and enclose it herewith.

Yours very truly,

Enclosure.

First
6 31

October 13, 1916.

Mr. Henry J. Forman,
Managing Editor,
"Colliers"
416 West 13th St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Forman:

I am sorry that I cannot offer you any encouragement for an early interview with Mr. Edison. He is busy every minute of the time and has requested even our own people to disturb him as little as possible. If you were out here I could point out a sign to you, which is placed at the door of the Chemical Laboratory where he is working. This sign says: "Keep Out! Mr. Edison does not want to be disturbed except in case of necessity. See Mr. Meadowcroft".

With every wish to be accomodating and to help you out, I think you will see from the above that it is not going to be easy to see him very soon.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

112

October 13, 1916.

E. R. Squibb & Sons,
78 Beekman Street,
New York City, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention of Mr. Hayden, Purchasing Dept.

Your favor of the 11th instant, has been received. We are certainly very greatly surprised at its contents, as Mr. Edison has always supposed that all the carbolic with which he supplied you was to be used by you for bottling and supplying to your trade.

Of course, we are willing to stand back of our product, but it certainly seems as though there should be a limit somewhere. The Carbolic Acid that has been questioned was shipped eight months ago, and no one would be more suprised than we if it had not discolored in that time, even if it stood unopened in galvanized iron drums.

Your customer's letter says "after being exposed", but nothing is said as to how long or in what manner it was exposed. We would ask you also whether you feel quite sure that there has been no mixture of anything else with it. If you are quite sure of this, you may return the drums to our factory marking same for Carbolic Division, Thos. A. Edison, Inc., Silver Lake, N.J., Plant No. 1. When they are received we will examine them and report.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Thing

October 13, 1916.

Prof. Irving Fisher,
460 Prospect Street,
New Haven, Conn.

My dear Mr. Fisher:

I have received your favor of the 10th instant, and am glad to hear from you. I saw young Poyer recently and he appears to me to be completely cured of tuberculosis, so I will not put you to the trouble of writing out your experience, although I thank you very much for your kind offer to do so.

I read all your articles and follow your activities with great interest.

Yours very truly,

October 13, 1916.

Sydney Lloyd Wrightson, Esq.
2123 Leroy Place, Northwest,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 11th inst., which has been read with a great deal of interest. I appreciate very greatly all the good things you are pleased to say about the Diamond Disc Phonograph and records. It is the greatest compensation to me, after my many years of hard work to learn that I have really succeeded in pleasing lovers of good music, especially those who know.

So far we have no recording machine that we can transport for making records at various points. We are working on such a machine, however, and I am hoping and expecting that this may be finished in the next two or three months.

I feel quite doubtful that you could get a satisfactory record of the voices of your Choir in a Church on account of the echos. The human ear does not employ a funnel, hence the echos are not noticeable; whereas the phonograph must employ a funnel and this amplifies enormously the echose.

When you come to New York and have made your trial record, you might run over to the Laboratory and see me. I am greatly interested in the fine technique of music.

Before coming over, you might call up Mr. Lesdowcroft on the 'phone and he will arrange a meeting.

Yours very truly,

October 13, 1916.

Mr. Charles M. Lincoln,
Managing Editor, "The World"
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Lincoln:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 11th instant, and regret to say that I shall be unable to spare time for an interview, as I am overworked just now. My reasons for supporting Mr. Wilson have already been published, and any interview would simply be a repitition, any way.

Yours very truly,

Trust

October 13, 1916.

Mr. Fr. F. Kuendig,

Wallisellen, (Zurich)

Switzerland.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to thank you for your favor of the eleventh ultimo, which will be carefully preserved for my files.

Let me say, for your information, that I do not wish to take up the manufacture of Guaicol, as other persons here have started to make it.

Can you find in Switzerland a dye which was made, I think, at Basle. It is called Erio-glaucine. I want to get about 50 pounds and would pay $12.00 per pound for it. If there is none to be obtained, could you furnish me with the process for making it, and if so, how much would you charge me for such process.

Yours very truly,

Test

October 16, 1916.

Mr. J. B. Ballantine,
c/o Silver Plum Reduction Co.,
Silver Plume Colorado.

Dear Mr. Ballantine:

It is quite a long time since we have heard from you, and Mr. Edison was asking a little while ago if there was any news. He said that I might write to you and tell you he would like to know how you are progressing.

You have had a long siege of it, but I trust everything is coming out in good shape, also that you are personally well and happy.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

October 16, 1916.

Mr. Milton C. Sherman,

Shelter Island, New York.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to our recent correspondence, Mr. Edison says that he is willing to give you a trial in his Chemical Laboratory and would start you at $12 per week. Advancement would depend entirely upon yourself.

If this is agreeable, please let me know when you would expect to report for duty.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

October 17, 192

Mrs. MacClellan Barto,
58 Eight Street,
Hoboken, N.J.

Dear Mrs. Barto:

In accordance with your request to have special attention given to the matter of your trial phonograph record, the matter has been taken up out of its order.

Mr. Miller has asked me to write to you to advise you that he could not get permission from Mr. Edison or our Music Committee to include you on our regular list of singers for making records.

I regret that such is the decision, and also that I shall be unable to give you detailed reasons, as it is the rule of the Company not to give detailed reasons in such cases.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Trust

October 16, 1916.

Mr. B. D. Caldwell,
President, Wells Fargo & Co.,
51 Broadway, New York City,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

I want to register a most emphatic complaint about the way that you are handling our express business from Silver Lake, N.J. For some time past your service has been very bad indeed, and we can not depend upon it to get goods to our customers on time. Just recently it has been taking three, four, five and six days for you to take a package from Silver Lake and deliver it in New York, a distance of less than fifteen miles.

I know you will be delighted to receive a kick of this kind direct, as it will give you a fine chance to jam some efficiency into some of your subordinates.

Yours very truly,

408

490

October 16, 1916.

Mitsui & Co., Limited,
25 Madison Ave.,
New York City, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. Shunzo Takaki.

I have received your favor of the 14th instant, in regard to the Benzol from the Woodward plant for the year 1917.

I am afraid you did not read my letter of the 11th instant carefully enough. If you will refer to it again you will see that it says "I believe I shall be able to buy the Woodward benzol"etc. I cannot tell with certainty for a week or ten days yet whether I shall positively be able to take all the Woodward benzol, as I am negotiating for some of my other manufactured products for next year, but I will let you know as soon as these negotiations come to a conclusion.

Yours very truly,

428

528

October 18, 1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
c/o Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Penna.

Dear Mr. Bacon:

Mr. Kammerhoff of the Carbolic plant distills the 90% Benzol that you send down to Silver Lake. He gets some Toluol, but it is not as pure as you make it. I have asked him to send it to you as you can put it in with your commercial Toluol and redistill it. He will, therefor, return to you a number of drums containing this material, which we will call commercial Toluol. I am writing this so that you will understand the matter.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

320
640

October 17, 1916.

Mr. A. I. Clymer,

Van Wert, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Clymer:

I have received your favor of the 11th instant, which has been read with careful attention. I have no objection whatever to your making the announcement outlined on the second page of your letter.

As to the Motion Pictures, I think that the smaller size picture would be the best size, if the light is generally poor.

In regard to Storage Battery matters, let me say that the Company is doing finely. If you get short of funds, I can get a customer for your stock at par.

Yours very truly,

416
565

October 17, 1916.

Mr. Stanley Doggett,
99 John Street,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Doggett:

Mr. Meadowcroft has handed me your favor of the 16th instant, and has also given me the substance of the talk you had with him this morning. I appreciate the difficulties you have been up against, but am glad to learn that you are now beginning to move the Aniline Oil.

Your request to ship ten drums to Stein, Hirsh & Company is noted. The date of shipment is not given in your letter, but Mr. Meadowcroft says you told him to ship October 20th, so we will make shipment that day of these ten drums.

I am much pleased to learn that you expect to give shipping instructions for fifteen to eighteen drums more within a few days. This will relieve some of the congestion at Silver Lake.

Yours very truly,

4376
581

October 17, 1916.

Mr. Frederic A. Whiting,
Eleven State Street,
Framingham Center, Mass.

Dear Mr. Whiting:

Once more I have to thank you for a letter and an interesting enclosure. I have read your article on "Common Sense Salesmanship". It is very good indeed, and I thank you for the "tip". We shall take you at your word and make use of this article.

Replying to your two questions, let me say, first, that it is not harmful to wind the instrument when it is playing. Second, it has never occured to me that there is more noise from the record when the motor is wound fully. The only increased noise, if any, is that perhaps the mechanism is slightly louder, due to the increased strain from being fully wound up.

Yours very truly,

Hunt

October 20, 1916

Amet Magni-Phone Company,
811 H.W.Hellman Bldg.,
Los Angeles, Cal.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 9th instant, has been handed to Mr. Edison. He requests me to say that he is ready to see a demonstration of the Amet Magni-phone. When your Mr. Miller arrives in New York, I would suggest that he communicate with me either by letter or telephone so that we can make the proper arrangements.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Hunt

October 20, 1916.

Mr. R. W. Bender, c/o
Western Union Telegraph Co.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 16th instant, let me say that there were two group pictures taken of the "Old Timers" on the occasion of their visit to my Laboratory recently. One was of the entire party, and the other was a smaller group of the "Old Military Telegraphers".

These photographs were made by Underwood & Underwood, Photographers, 417 Fifth Ave., New York City, N.Y. I think that they would be able to supply you with a copy of the photograph of either one of these groups.

Yours very truly,

First

October 20, 1916.

Dr. Starr Willard Cutting,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dr. Cutting:

I have had the pleasure of reading your very interesting favor of the 10th instant, and assure you that I am glad to have intelligent criticism and suggestions.

The steamy sound on the Disc records is the worry of my life. If I make everything delicate so as to record all the overtones, the surface sounds are all brought out. On the other hand, if I make everything less sensitive, in order to stop the steamy sounds, I lose overtones and hence sacrifice the quality.

Your earlier records were made under a different technique, but they developed intermittent steamy surfaces of such a bad nature that we had to throw away two records in order to obtain one. This made it impossible to manufacture them at a profit, or to obtain anywhere near enough in quantity to supply the public.

By the new technique, I can get all the overtones and reproduce louder, and the intermittent steamy sounds are rare, but the general surface sounds are louder.

We are constantly at work to diminish the surface sound, but I shall never stop until I get rid of it all together.

Yours very truly,

Twit

629

October 20,1916.

Mr. Joseph P. Day,
31 Nassau Street,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Your circular letter to Mr. Edison in regard to the Factory Sites on the Newark Meadows, property of the Newark Factory Sites, Inc., was received, and has had his personal attention. He would like you to give him an idea of prices on these factory sites.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

348
591

October 21, 1916.

Dr. John H. Finley,
President, University of the State of New York,
Albany, New York.

Dear Dr. Finley:

It occurs to me that you would probably like to have a copy of Mr. Edison's speech of acceptance of the honor conferred upon him last night. I am therefore enclosing a copy herewith, and also a copy of your speech of presentation as we heard it over the telephone.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

Tarr

October 20,1916.

Mr. C. E. Goodwin,
Manager, The Phonograph Co.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Goodwin:

I received your favor of the 17th instant, which came in the day after Mr. Edison received a letter from Mr. Starr Willard Cutting. I showed Mr. Edison your letter also and then he says that I may send you copy of Mr. Cutting's letter and of his (Mr.Edison's) reply. You will find them enclosed herewith.

I am glad to say that Mr. Edison is well and enjoying himself hugely on some chemical problems. He spends his days and nights in the Chemical Room. I am also glad to be able to report myself in good shape, with sufficient work to keep me from getting rusty.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

ENCLOSURE.

First

October 23, 1916.

Mr. Walter E. Holland,
District Sales Manager,
Walker Vehicle Company,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Holland:

Mr. Edison received your favor of the 12th instant. He is very busy from early morning to midnight in the Chemical Laboratory working out some difficult chemical problems, and he has asked me to write to you and thank you for your interesting letter and for the information that you give him about the "G" type thin plate Edison battery.

He also wants me to ask you how the sales of Electric Vehicles are progressing on the Pacific Coast. He will be very interested to hear from you on this subject.

Mr. Edison sends his kind regards to you, to which I want to add my own.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

October 23, 1916.

Committee of Arrangements,
Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York,
Sixty-five Liberty Street,
New York City, New York.

Gentlemen:

Allow me to thank you for the invitation to attend the One Hundred and Forty-eighth Annual Banquet of the Chamber, on November sixteenth.

I take pleasure in advising you of my acceptance of this invitation and of my intention of being present at this Banquet.

Yours very truly,

Chas

Trust

October 24, 1916.

Miss Iona M. Shattuck,

95 Lakefront Ave.,

East Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 18th inst., to Mr. Edison has been received. He requests us to say in reply that we have no Recording Studio except our regular one located in New York City, and it is impossible for us to decide on the avilability of a singer unless we have a trial record of the voice. If you ever visit New York, you can call at our Recording Studio, 79 Fifth Ave., New York City, and see the Manager, Mr. W. H. Miller, who will take a trial record of your voice, which will be submitted to the Music Committee for criticism. To avoid any misunderstanding, we beg to say that we do not pay the expenses of any singer coming to make a trial record.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Grist

October 24, 1916.

Mr. Geo. H. Bartlett,
Rooms 16 & 17, Beard Bldg.,
Sapulpa, Okla.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 18th inst., which has been read with a great deal of interest. I cannot say that I remember you distinctly, but I do remember the remark about the Cotton Picker. I actually worked on such a device for several weeks, but laid it aside for continuation of some of my other work at the time.

Yours very truly,

498

671

October 24,1

Mr. Frederic A. Whiting,
Eleven State Street,
Framingham Center,
Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Whiting.

Your esteemed favor of the 16th instant and enclosed pamphlet "The William Terry Touch Alphabet" was received and found very interesting.

It is quite an ingenious system, but I find the Morse Alphabet would be practical also. I can read Morse at the rate of 35 words per minute, by touch only, and if the Associated Press abbreviations are used I can read 100 words per minute.

Yours very truly,

[illegible]

Trust

October 24, 1916.

Mrs. A. J. George,
The Warrington,
161 Madison Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. George:

Mr. Marshall C. Lefferts has forwarded to me your letter of the 13th instant, concerning "George Washington Memorial Building".

My impression is that this project is untimely. I think that if you knew the enormous demands upon the business community for donations for the scores of Relief Societies organized to save the people of many lands from actual starvation, and to provide funds for the Red Cross Societies of every country, you would realize that it would be very much better to postpone active work on the George Washington Memorial Building until there is some relief from demands occasioned by the War. I believe it will then be easy to carry out this project.

Yours very truly,

Enclosure.

First

October 25, 1916.

Mr. Henry L. Doherty,
60 Wall Street,
New York City,
New York.

My dear Mr. Doherty:

I am very proud of my Electric Flag, which was lighted for the first time last night. It occupies a prominent position on top of a tower in the center of one of my big building's and can be seen for a long distance. Old Glory is going to wave electrically every night until midnight.

I am very glad indeed to have this striking representation of our National colors, and I want to express my sincere thanks to you for such an acceptable gift.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

First

October 26,1916.

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Evans,
care Mrs. H. Fritz,
57 North Maple Ave.,
Ridgewood, N.J.

Dear Mrs. Evans:

I have received your note of the 24th instant, and am glad to learn that you will now have an opportunity to make the trial records we spoke of so long ago.

If Mr. Edison were not so very busy I am sure that he would be glad to hear you personally, but the fact is he is working from early morning until midnight on some special chemical investigations. It is quite difficult even to arrange for our own officials to get any of his time just now.

However, there is one thing that he does do, he hears all the trial records that are made. It may be sooner or later, but he makes time for that.

Will you please therefore take this letter over to Mr. W. H. Miller at our Recording Studio, 79 Fifth Ave., New York City, N.Y., and he will arrange for you to make trial records. Saturday is not a good day to go over there as Mr. Miller usually comes over here to the Laboratory on that day.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

619
610

October 26,1916.

Dr. John H. Finley,
President, University of the State of New York,
Albany, New York.

Dear Dr. Finley:

Allow me to thank you for your kind letter of the 23d instant. You are touching one of Mr. Edison's tenderest spots when you ask him to make a record of his voice. He has been asked by hundreds, - perhaps I should say thousands, - of people, and has been approached on this subject from a great many sources.

Thus far all these requests have been without favorable results. However, I am going to take up with Mrs. Edison and see if we can carry the idea through.

There will be no effort required on my part to forgive what happened at the Grand Central Palace in regard to the hood. I agree with you that it was most fortuitous and a highly fitting time and place. Mr. Edison was evidently happy and did not object, so I feel quite happy about it myself.

I thank you for your kind words about the biography. I presume you mean "Boys Life of Edison". If you have not a copy of your own I shall be glad to have you accept one from me with my compliments, so please advise me whether or not you already have one.

I shall be very glad to receive a copy of Bulletin containing the account of the Convocation whenever it is ready.

Yours sincerely,

409

October 25, 1916.

Mr. Robert E. Ireton,
Editorial Department,
Railway Executives Advisory Committee,
61 Broadway, New York City.

Dear Mr. Ireton:

Let me say in reply to your favor of the 20th instant, that to form an opinion for or against control of the Railroads by the Government, would take a lot of time for thinking and for the collection of facts. I cannot spare the time.

Flashlight opinions of such involved questions are of no value.

Yours very truly,

Thorpe

October 26,1916.

Miss May Rosella James,
3820 W. Congress Street,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 22d instant has been received. In reply we beg to say that there is only one way that we can ascertain whether or not a singer would be available for our staff of artists, and that is through a trial record made at the only Recording Studio we have, which is at 79 Fifth Ave., New York City, N.Y.

We do not pay the expenses of singers coming to make trial records, but if you are ever in New York you may call at our Recording Studio and present this letter to Mr. W. H. Miller, who will make a trail record of your voice, for consideration by Mr. Edison and the Music Committee.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

First

October 26,1916.

Miss Alys Larreyne,
The Waldorf-Astoria,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Madam:

We beg to inform you that the test record which was made by you at our Recording Studio in Fifth Avenue, was unfavorably passed upon by the Music Committee. We shall therefore be unable to avail ourselves of your services on our regular staff of artists.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

First

October 26,1916.

The Unpopular Review,

35 West 32d Street,

New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 14th instant to Mr. Edison has been received, and he requests me to write and ask you to enter his subscription for one-year for the "Unpopular Review".

Will you please send the bill to me and I will put it through the proper channels.

It would be well to send the Review to Mr. Edison's house, so please address it:

Mr. Thomas A. Edison,
'Glenmont
Llewellyn Park,
West Orange, N.J.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Final

October 26, 1916.

Mrs. Mabel Fenness Ventor,
503 West 121st Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Madam:

Replying to your favor of the 13th inst., we regret to say that in view of the decision of our Music Committee concerning Miss Jennie Drewett's voice, we cannot see our way clear to take any further test records of this young lady's voice.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

First

October 26,1916.

Mr. Francis M. Applegate,
27 William Street,
New York City,
New York.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the 11th instant, let me say D. M. Bliss worked here in the Laboratory for some time, but as his services were not satisfactory, due perhaps to the conditions here, which are rather exacting.

Yours very truly,

Henry

October 28,1916.

Mr. Thos. E. Delancy,
156 Market Street,
Paterson, N.J.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 25th instant to Mr. Henry Miller, has been referred to the Laboratory.

If you are in New York at any time and will stop in at our Recording Studio, No. 79 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N.Y., and see Mr. Walter H. Miller, who will arrange to make a trial record of your voice to be submitted to the Music Committee.

Kindly present this letter to Mr. Miller, who will see that you will receive the proper attention.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

591

October 26,1916

Dr. John H. Finley,
President, The University of the State of New York,
Albany, New York.

Dear Dr. Finley:

Mr. Meadowcroft has shown me your favor of the 23d instant, in regard to the super-kinetoscope. I am glad to learn that you have found it so satisfactory, as it gives me an additional pleasure in presenting it to the University of the State of New York, through your good self.

I will ask the University to please accept it with my compliments and with the hope that it will offer many years of useful service.

Yours very truly,

Thomas

October 27,1916.

Messrs. Harry and Samuel Keefer,
143 North Fifth Street,
Sunbury, Penna.

Gentlemen:

I have received your letter of the 25th instant, and in reply beg to say that Mr. Edison will be here Monday next, and if you are in this neighborhood you may drop in and see him.

Possibly it might be well for you to telephone me in advance of your coming, so there will be no disappointment.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Tarrant

6884

[621]

October 27,1916.

Mr. Walter P. Schuck,
2513 62d Street, S.E.,
Portland, Ore.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 16th instant in regard to Nickel Flake has been received.

We do not sell this product as a rule. We sold some to Professor Baskerville for catalytic purposes for fats. He has gotten out a patent on its use in flake form for this purpose. I suppose its use in that direction is closed so far as others are concerned.

We would sell for uses which do not conflict with the use we make of it, namely, as part of Alkaline Storage Battery.

If you have no objection to stating what uses you wish to make of this, we will probably quote you a price.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

518

691

October 28,1916.

Mr. Joseph P. Day,
31 Nassau Street,
New York City,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 26th inst., has been received and contents and prices noted.

I was thinking of acquiring land for a Chemical Works, but believe I can do much better than your prices in another locality.

Yours very truly,

429
650

October 30,1916.

Mr. Henry J. Forman,
Managing Editor,
COLLIERS,
416 West 13th Street,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

I have shown Mr. Edison your favor of the 27th inst. He says that he will probably be able to give your representative an interview some time next week. His time this week is all taken up, but if you will get in touch with me say about Wednesday morning next week, I will try and make a definite appointment for your representative.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

484

October 30,1916.

Mr. A. I. Clymer,

Van Wert, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Clymer:

Let me say in reply to your favor of the 26th instant that I know all about the Prussian Railroad experiment and have all the data relating thereto. I hope to do something on this line in this country, but it is hard to get the plan started.

Yours very truly,

176

October 31,1916.

Mr. Robert T. Lozier,
141 Broadway,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Lozier:

Your favor of the 28th instant was received and laid before Mr. Edison. I will confirm by this letter what he wishes me to say in reply.

He thinks that the 45¢ price on contract is too low in view of the prices we have to pay for materials for next year. Unless such materials come down in price, 48¢ is about as low as can be named for U. S. P. Phenol next year. We are bargaining for raw materials now and he says he will talk to you later.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

528

November 1,1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
c/o Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Penna.

My dear Mr. Bacon:

Will you please let me know at your earliest convenience when you are due to ship another car of Toluol to the Dupont people.

If you will remember, last month we sold 10,000 gallons to another concern, but that you have only shipped a little less than 5,000 gallons on this order so far. They may call for the remainder at any time. We also sold to the same people, 1,000 gallons for October and 1,000 gallons for November, but they have not yet called for delivery.

I see from your Daily Report that you have plenty of 90% washed Toluol on hand, so it would be a simple matter to make a lot more pure if they should call on us suddenly for deliveries.

Mr. Edison has decided to place the selling of all our products in charge of a regular Commercial Department, and I am arranging to transfer all these matters to them. They will be taking hold in a few days. Mr. Emery is at the head of this Department, so by and by you will get into the handling of these matters with them. In the meantime, until you hear definitely, you and I will correspond just as usual.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr.Edison.

631

November 1,1916.

Mr. Henry J. Forman,
Managing Editor,
COLLIERS,
416 West 13th Street,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Forman:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 31st ultimo, and in reply beg to say that in accordance with your desire, I will ask Mr. Edison to "have a heart". He is out of town for today and tomorrow, but I hope he will be here on Friday and will then place your letter before him.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

634

November 1,1916.

Mitsui & Company,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. Shunzo Takaki.

Up to this time we have been furnishing the Solvent Naphtha from both the Woodward and Johnstown plants to the American Oil & Supply Company, who in turn, had supplied it all to one of their customers. We had a contract with the American Oil & Supply Co., but this contract expired August 1st. They have taken the last shipment we made, and now notify us that their customer does not want any more and as the contract has expired, they are not under any obligations to take our Solvent Naphtha.

I notify you of this so that you may be on the lookout for a customer for your Solvent Naphtha from the Woodward plant. The market price is much lower than it was. Under our contract with the American Oil & Supply Company, they paid us 25¢ a gallon, but I am told that the market is now down to 17 or 18¢ a gallon.

As Mr. Opdyke is now accumulating some of this product, I suppose it would be advisable for you to see if you can dispose of it.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

679

November 3,1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
c/o Edison Benzol Plant,
Cambria Steel Works,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Mr. Bacon:

Beg to confirm Western Union telegram sent you this afternoon as follows:

"Dupont people say we are short 7,000 gallons Toluol on shipments up to November 1st on their contract. They say last shipment was September 12th. What shipments do your records show. Answer quick."

I trust we will receive a reply from you along more favorable lines than our message to you.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

November 6,1916.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
c/o Edison Benzol Plant,
Ombria Steel Works,
Johnstown, Penna.

Dear Mr. Bacon:

Following the regular custom, I beg to subjoin copy of my Western Union message sent you today:

"Your letter received. Please make shipment Toluol to Du Pont immediately and follow with tracer. They want it badly. Write me today how soon you will ship"

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

629

November 7,1916.

Mr. Joseph P. Day,

31 Nassau Street,

New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 31st ultimo, Mr. Edison wishes me to say that you might call some day and talk the matter over with him. When you come, please ask for me. Mr. Edison is usually here every day and all day, except between one and two o'clock when he is likely to be away at lunch.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Meadowcroft.

Hist

November 6,1916.

Mr. J. C. Dorr,
Milan, Ohio.

Dear Sir:-

It has recently been called to my attention that you have decided to become a Dealer in the New Diamond Amberola and Blue Amberol records in Milan.

I am pleased to hear of this, and think our Milan people will appreciate the quality of the music, the recording and reproducing of which I am constantly experimenting with.

Yours very truly,

November 7,1916.

Miss Lillias Turner Howe,

Nevada City, California.

Dear young Friend:

Your letter of the 30th ultimo to Mr. Edison has been received. He wishes us to say in reply that the matter of recording the special words to be recorded to the tune of "Where the River Shannon Flows", will be submitted to the Music Committee, but we are afraid that you will be disappointed, as it has been our practice not to record other words than those which belong to any good tune.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

General Letterbook Series
Letterbook, LB-115 (1916-1917)

This letterbook covers the period November 1916-January 1917. Most of the correspondence is by Edison and William H. Meadowcroft. Some of the correspondence pertains to the commercial and technical development of the phonograph. Included are letters discussing customer relations, voice trials by recording artists, selections for music catalogs, and experiments involving microscopic examination of violin strings. There is also correspondence concerning Edison's storage battery, his benzol absorbing plants and other chemical manufacturing interests, and the development of educational motion pictures. Other letters relate to the death of longtime Edison associate and investor James Gaunt; Edison's friendship with horticulturalist Luther Burbank, naturalist John Burroughs, and industrialist Henry Ford; and the receipt of an autographed photograph from President Woodrow Wilson. In addition, there are letters containing Edison's opinions on financial, political, and technical matters, along with items regarding the collection of books for his libraries. The correspondents include industrialist Harvey Firestone, George F. Kunz of Tiffany & Co., Henry Ford's personal secretary Ernest G. Liebold, and representatives of Mitsui & Co.

The spine is stamped "Letters" and is marked "T.A.E. From Nov. 7, 1918 To Jan. 23, 1917." The number "53" also appears on the spine. The book contains 700 numbered pages and an index. Approximately 20 percent of the book has been selected.

Abrams, A. W. 26-
American Oil & Supl. Co. 62-100-133-280-345-387-426-
Aniline Color Co 64-
Allen, T. B. 172-256-
Alexander, Tony 184-
Aterite Co, M. H. 202-344-358-584-
Ackroyd, E. L. 238-
Atkinson, W. A. 308-
Adams, Rev. Fred Winslow 292-
Adams, H. 359-
Ahern, H. A. 433-
Abernethy, Rev W.S. DD 434-
Angell, G. O. 485-
A. Mol. Erie Pa. 456-
Allen, E. W. 526-
Astor, Mr & Mrs 564-
Ashew, L. E. 626-
Anderson, G. S. 639-
Adams, T. A. 669-
Andrews, H. L. Dec 695-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M Mc N O P Q R S T U V W Y

Badger & Son Co, C. B.	423-	
Barber, Frank, M.	495-	
Barber, Mrs. J. S.	436	
Baucus, J. D.	437-	
Brokerage Co, Wasatch	449-	
Bacon Jr. John	445-571-	
Balch, Miss E. S.	466-	
Baker, Edward	495-	
Bell, Wm G.	507-	
Barrett, M. H	515-	
Burnett, Orbid, W.	542-	
Berrian, Mrs Phillip	559-	
Bruch, Geo. W.	585-	
Boyd, L. L.	590-	
Boyle Ward	597-	
Blakstel, Dr. F. Sheridan	633-	
Baily, E. A.	674-	
Brock, W. M.	683-	
Brown Jaxey T.	684-	
Boyden H. E.	700-	

B

Blau, Jacob B.	5-
Bacon, Mr.	29-
Byrne, A. J.	32-
Boghossian, S. K. O.	39-
Benkert, Wm. R.	52-
Bennett, Elec. C.	54-
Baird, John G.	80-
Business, The National	91-
Birchard, A. R.	101-
Becker, D. W.	102-
Bovee, E. W.	118-
Brown, J. L.	119-
Bain, G. G.	134-
Bureau of Standards	135-
Beck, E. H.	153-
Bredt & Co, J.	154-427-
Bayer Company, The	166-
Billings, C. M. W.	169-
Barnes, Edwin C.	177-
Beatty, Miss A. D.	185-
Bodkin, H. F.	210-
Boucher, Helen	226-
Brickell, C. D.	241-
Brentano's	242-249-
Bassett, H. P.	253-
Bots, R. H.	272-
Bruhn, Miss M. E.	284-
Briscoe, Henry	290-
Bryan, W. E.	321-
Benson, Kenneth	322-
Bigelow, Edw. H.	346-
Bugg, Leo	347-
Broderick, Wm	360-
Bach, Alexander	361-
Burgess, Fred R.	362-
Bonham, C. G.	402-
Buck, J. W.	403-

Cooper, M. D.	503-
Chandler, Miss Marjorie	550
Cushman, Rev. Ralph H.	559-
Carroll, J. K.	586-
Curtiss, Charles,	
Curtis, Chester B.	591-
Carder, Huntly	614-
Coey, Geo.	653-
Cordley, W. W.	691-

A B C

C

Colvin Geo. A.	6-
Cogwin Chem. Co.	7-
Cooper, C. J.	28-
Crothers, E. M.	55-
Coster, Robt.	65-109-55-
Carter, Miss Elizabeth	81-
Capron, R. K.	104-
Colemann, Miss E.	120-
Current Events	136-
Campe, John H.	156-
Carhart, M. H.	179-
Coutts, Robt. L.	186-
Cooper John	187-
Charles, Mrs W. A.	204-
Childs, W. H.	224-
Curtis, Chas. G.	227-
Crystal Hosiery Mills Co	235-
Campbell, H. C.	246-
Cheson, W.	259-
City Hospital, Binghamton	278-
Clark, Mrs J. H.	287-
Caum, S. L.	293-348-388-
Commons, Carl H.	294-
Clymer, A. L.	349-
Cowles, Frederick H.	350-
Caballero, John	363-
Cush, C. H.	365-
Crontch, Lewis R.	389-
Collins, Eli Ives	404-
Conlan, Clare	405-
Cary, Miss K. H.	407-
Chambers, Robt	408-
Clodomiro Montoya Cuneo	446-
Capsel, H.	457-
Cladwick, James	458-
Concrete Steel Co, Trustee	494-579-
Cary, Mrs Harry	500-

D

Dreyfuss, Leonard 8-663-
Deberry, J. L. 9-
Doe, H. H. N.Y. 34-
Dyer, Mrs. N.Y. 56-
Du Pont, De Nemours & Co 57-417-531-257-
Duffy, J. T. 66-
Dominion Iron & Steel Co 137-
Du Bois, J. C. 138-
Dolder, H. C. 139-
Dohl, C. H. 217-
Durling, Paul 218-
Dickman, Wm. H. 245-
Durkell & Son, J. P. 247-
Davis, C. D. 295-366
Daniels, Hon. Josephus 329-521-
Dunne, Hon. Edw. H. 351-
Day, J. P. 424-664-
Druggists Syndicate Members American 425-
Dabs, J. D. Col. 438-
De Forest, Lee Capt 499-
Daley, James J. 509-
Day, Joseph P. 532-
Dun, Mrs. Mary L. 539-
Delcock, E. T. 562-
Dodittle, T. B. 635-
Duffy, Chas. V. Minister 671-

Edwards & Co, T. H.	96-	
Elliott, Mrs. H.	121-	
Edison Co, N. Y.	221-	
Edgertyn Co. Inc.	428-476-	
Emerson, Guy.	467-	
Ehert, Edw. C.	508-	
Essex County Country Club	535-	
Eaton, Mrs Frank, A.	579-	
Eward, Clarence T.	642-	

Fredrickson C. H. 10-
Felmer, Edward 67-
Felder K. T. 82-189-
Fairchild, R. 207-
Firestone, F. S. 250-491-673-
Follett, Miss Loraine 251-252-
Fernandez del Valle, Justo 276-
Fehringer, Max 281-
Fleming, J. W. 286-
Freman, J. M. 330-
Franklin, J. E. 331-
Funkhouser, L. K. 367-
Fagan, H. D. 368-390-
Fryberger, Harry 386-
Fison, Roger 409-
Fletcher, J. W. 410-
Feiker, H. M. 439-
Franklin, Mrs. R. G. 487-
Furman, G. G. 534-
Frankel, Edw. T. 537-
Fitzerald, Michael J. 556-
Fletcher, Victor 560-
Fougner, Herman 623-
Feiber, H. M. 638-
Frost Karl Rev. 685-

Glassey, Frank P. J. 30-
Grasselli Chem. Co. 35-
Green, Chas. N. 68-
Gwynne, Charles T. 89-
Gurney Ter-Mer Co. 84-257-
Gross, F. F. 97-
Griffing, A. C. 122-
Glass, Miss M. R. 140-
Gibson, H. S. 181-
George, Miss L. 190-
Gill, P. S. 208-
Gray, D. B. 234-
Gahnt, T. T. 260-
Goodman Collar Co., The 289-
Goldberg, Miss L. D. 309-310-
Grant, Rev. Dr. P. Stickney 369-
Gaines, Wm H. 391-
Goodman, Max 447-
General Electric Co. 481-
Greenhut, Eugene 482-538-
Gage, Stanley 514-
German-American Button Co. 624-
Guenther, Rec. G. H. 634-
General Mill Supply Co. 655-
Goetchius, J. M. 658-
Harrison, C. M. 687-

G

Holyer, Miss Mame	595-
Hoover, Herbert	601-
Hoffman, W. H.	615-
Howard, H. D.	637-
Haynes, C. B.	668-
Howland, Ellis L	~~676~~-675-
Howard, A.	686-
Howden, Geo.	693-

A B C D E F G H

Harrigan, Charles 11-
Heath & Milligan Mfg. Co. 12-
Hahn, Eldon C. 13-
Hawkins, H. 26-
Hooper, J. T. 27-
Keine, C. 38-
Home, W. E. 69-70-318-319-320-399-488-527-
Heren, John W. 85-
Howard, M. J. 116-
Haag, W. G. 149-
Hall, H. F. 150-
Halpern, M. J. 157-
Haberg, Carl 175-
Hendricks, C. U. 191-
Hale, R. S. 222-
Hopkins, G. C. 229-
Hansen, H. C. 230-
Hydrographic Office, U.S. 258-
Hargrave, P. M. 265-422-
Hill, Lamont 275-
Harper & Brothers 277-333-
Hill, W. J. R. 279-640-665-
Heitman Co., H. C. 296-
Hale, A. E. 297-
Hollander, B. F. 303-
Henneberg, Paul. 323-370-
Howlett, G. N. 332-
Hernandez Jr., C. H. 371-
Hill, Wendell, P. 400-
Hoover, H. C. 459-
Hathaway & Reynolds 468-
Haarmann, De Laik-Schafer Co. 474-644-
Hinckly, Jno. H. 486-
Hawkes, Frank P. 505-
Hackett, Mr. D. 522-
Heltman, J. J. 523-
Huber, Dr. J. Dessner 588-

H

Ives, W. L

602-

Johnson, F. H.	58-
Jackson, M. P.	141-
Johnson, G. A.	178-
James, T. M.	212-
Johnson, R. U.	225-
Jones, A. C.	236-
Jones, C. R.	249-
Junior Naval Reserve U.S.	268-
Johnson E. B.	352-
Joy, Robt.	372-510-
Jones, Gustav	385-
Jenson Leroy	684-

J

Kung, George H. 86-605-662-
Kodera, T. Christa 87-
Kasebier-Chatfield Shellac Co 261-
Krucie, Paul J., 311-373-
Kimberly, Lieut, Condr. H. 384-
" , " , " , V.A. 420-
Kempe & Lauritzen 477-
Keith Car Co. 480-
Kuler, Irving S. 516-
King, George Gordan 579-
Kaufman, Herbert 581-
Kimbal, Fred. M. Mjr. 603-
Kallbatz, Baron Charles 604-
Keller, A. M. 661-
Koogel, Lieut. 692-

K

Lazard, Louis 14-40-41-
Levy, Mark 42-
Logier, R. F. 59-
Lambie, H. D. 71-659-
Lochmann, F. W. 72-
Loderick, O. J. 105-
Law, Clarence L. 106-
Lord & Magle Co., The Boydon 171-
Lesher, Will 192-
Le Quatte, P. H. 334-
Lewinson, S. 353-
Lennon, Bert 354-
Lockwood, Geo. H. 374-
Liebold, E. G. 448-525-533-593-599-606-607 609-627-630-660-
Lee de Forest, Esq. 484-
Lockberth, Trelon 529-
Levin, Miss Christine 552-
Loveloce, B. H. 575-
Lepez, Julian 608-
Lederer, Carl H. 650-
Livingston, B. H. 667-

Moving Picture World	617-
Murfeky Carl. W.	654-
Moore, V.C.	677-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

Mason C. Lisby	15-594-
Mallaby, A. L.	16-29-108-282-
Mitsui & Co. Ltd.	24-25-109-110-124-163-164-165 182-228-419-611-
Marsden Jewell Corp.	21-392-
Miller, H. B.	79-
Meganice, The New West	74-
Mitchell, Wm	90-
Mety, J. A.	107-
[illegible]	17-
Miller, Spencer	173-
Meyers, Mrs L. C.	193-
Maynard, L. M.	194-
Mellon, Sam	196-
Mackay, A. G.	201-
Marchmary, O. M.	209-
Minter, Mrs	220-
Michael's Hospital, St	232-
Muck Jock	239-
Moses, L. S. E. M.D.N.	262-
Miline, Mrs M. J.	266-
Mallory, W. S.	283-554-679-
Merriman, J. N.	298-
Murry, Chas. T.	300-
Morgan, B. L.	335-
Moe, Emery	336-
Moise, H.	412-
Markets	429-
Marks, A. R.	449-
Murry-Thomas, C.	450-
Mouat, Henry	499-
Morgan, William H.	518-
Mohamed, Ibrahim H.	549-
Menken, S. Stanwood	566-
Martin, T. Comerford	582-
Merwin, Geo. E.	592-
Mass, Wm	610-
Martin, Ira S.	612-

M

Mc Lain, L. A. 43-
Mc. Dermott, Mich. J. 88-
Mc Glunghy, W. H. J. 89-
Mc. Ilhenny, J. A. 111-
Mc Herrent, D. J. 237-
Mc Kee, J. 270-
Mc. Ra, Duncan 299-
Mac. Donald, Rev Charles C. 312-
Mc. Collum, Miss Emma 411-
Mc Carthy, Ambrose A. 502-
Mc Gartlow, H. H. Miss 577-
Mc. [illegible], Nellie 618-

Mc

Newton, E. M. 267-
Nash, Morgan 301-
National Bank, Union 304-618-
" " Second 305-
" " North Ward 306-
National Newark Banking Co. 307-
Newcomb A. W. 375-
Nunnelly, W. J. 441-
Neubauer, Geo. M. 460-
Nash, Miss Ruth C. 563-
Natorny, Leonard 621-

N

Opdyke, Claude 44-75-570-647-
Orphan Society, Orange. 451-
Otter, Ed, D. 584-
Oliver, Raymond 596-

O

Proudfoot Com. Agency	17-
Pratt, N. M.	18-
Potter, G. F.	22-
Press Illust. Service, Inc.	63-
Palmer, W. M.	92-
Paler, H. A.	93-
Phelan, J. T.	125-
Pewther, J. C.	126-
Percival, H. G.	151-
Perkins, H. H.	215-
Plesser, Otto	233-377-
Price, Chas. W.	291-
Perez, Louis	318-
Parker, A. S.	324-
Plaisted, Edgell R.	337-338-578-
Pring, Aug. R.	376-
Parker, Ross E.	452-
Porter, Miss Agnes	455-
Presbrey, Seth M.	462-
Pfiffinberger, M. Edison	463-
Patjevitch, R.	469-
Peta, Mme Nanny	511-
Patrick, Alex G.	517-
Parrish, Rob. R.	540-
Putman, Prof. J. J.	548-
Part, Augustus. Sec	567-
Paul Jr. Arthur	587-
Palmer, C. A.	620-696-
Presbrey, Frank	681-

P

Raymerton, H. R. 1-
Rorison, J. C. 2-
Rogers, G. G. 27-
Reid, W. P. 45-114-
Roberts, J. A. 53-378-
Romano, Prof. L. 60-198-314-544-624-
Rose, R. M. 127-
Reynolds, A. L. 142-
Rousseau, Theodore 174-
Randall, C. A. 197-
Rogers, Miss M. 216-
Rockhill & Victor 288-
Ring, Charles H. M.D. 430-
Rutledge, Beecher 442-
Renfrew-Manu, Co. 473-
Rapp, A. G. 478-
Robinett, George W. 479-
Reed, Harry L. 497-
Rizzolo, Albert C. 501-
Rowley, Mrs J. C. 545-
Reilly, Frank C. 546-
Robinson, Mizpah 56-
Ribble, E. R. 690-

R

Sawyer, H. H.		536-
Stearns, Mrs E. H.		551-
Smith, Geo. Otis	Hon	569-
Schmulavity, Starbin & Dubin		580-
Shepard, E. A.		600-
Simmons, Harold		628-
Scannell, J. J.		646-
Seaman, Frank		670-
Smith, Thos. B.		676-
Schwartz, Edw. E.		678-
Smith, H. W.		697-
Smith, Miss M. S.		698-
Shearer, John L	Md	699-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M Mc N O P Q R S

Shaeber, Harry C. 9-
Smith, A. C. 19-
Starley Jorden & Co. 29-
Stayton, W. H. 46-
Schlesinger Louis 76-
Stockhouse, W. S. 98-
Speirs, C. E. 112-285-524-598-622-
Sentinel Knoxville 123-
Stifer, A. J. 128-574-
Stein, Fisch & Co 143-158-475
Sloane, J. E. 144-
Still, A. M. 159-
Schollof Aniline & Chem. Wks. 168-
Solomon, R. H. 195-244-273-
Simons, B. Publ. Co. 200-
Sonne, Otto 240-274-
Shaw Co. A. W. 248-326-
Snow, E. M. S. M. 263-264-
Schutt, Roy 315-
Stire, Mrs L. Antram 316-
Seeber, Fred W. 325-381-
Swanger, David K. 339-
Smith, L. E. 355-
Smith, H. M. 379-
Smith, Arthur E. 380-
Stein, Leo. 393-
Shaw, Wm E. 394-
Spar Chemical Co, The 406-
Stubblefield, B. M. 421-
Shutt, Dr. Cleveland 431-
Stone, H. J. 432-
Shepherd, Mr & Mrs Wm C. 464-
Shattuck, A. R. 470-
Smith, H. B. 483-613-
Sherman J. S. 513-
Shotte, H. A. 528-

S

Tsuzaki, Shunzo 20-145-
Tour W. Deare 47-
Tomplin, R. C. 48-
Tack, Miss L. H. D. 94-
Thomas, Charles W. 95-
Thomas, Bond 113-
Turrill, Lewis 160-
Turner, H. J. 211-
Thomson, Dr. J. D. 327-
Thomsen, Mat 340-459-
Teague, T. T. 341-
Tomlinson, Mr. M. R. 382-
Taylor, Miss Edythe 414-
Towne, Charles Hanson 418-
Todd, Frank M. 489-
Tow, Jas. O. 498-
Todd & Co, T. D. 557-
Trumbull, Frank Chairman 558-
Todd, A. M. Prov. Pres. 565-
Turner, Isaac S. 568-
Tessler, Mr. 520-
Thorkson, Ralph 652-
The Sec. of Agriculture 656-657
Trade News Service 666-
Thompson, Carl D. Sec. 672-
Trainer, Jno. B. 682-
The Atchison Leather Prod. Co. 688-

T

Ungar, J. C. 269-
Universal Efficiency & Economy Corp. 395-
Union Pacific Railroad Co. ~~[illegible]~~-686-
Upham, Everett L. 648-

Vandewegle, Aime 21-
Valligny, L. P. 99-
Van Geisen, J. S. 129-
Van Zile, E. S. 170-342
Van Sycbel Jr. H. L. 231-
Vose, D. T. 255-
Viall, Wm A. Sect. 343-
Vorhis, H. S. Secr. 356-
Van Nostrand Co. D. 383-461-
Van Selder, Martinus 396-
Van Den Brink, Edw. 504-
Van Sbaik, Mrs. 530-631-
Van Oldenzeel, H. 561-643-
Van Kessel, Mrs Mary V. 651-
Vogt, Dr Kurt. 680-

V

Williams, Arthur	547-
Wilkinson, Max. C.	576-
Wool, M. G.	317-
Wirt, Charles	625-
Wildman, Mag. & News Service	632-
White, C. D. Supt.	649-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M Mc N O P Q R S T U V W

Willson, W. B. Mrs.	4-
Weddleton, Wm	49-
Westendorf, Thos. P.	50-543-572-
Woodward Iron Co	61-131-555-
Williams, F. M.	77-
Wood, F. A.	78-
Williams, George	79-
Wissmann, Mrs H. De R.	115-
Walker, F. M.	190-
Whiting, J. A.	146-152-167-397-
Wautels, Mrs W. M.	147-
Walter, J. A.	148-
Williams, Carl. C.	161-
Weinschanker & Son, J.	162-
Wright, Arthur C.	176-203
Whiteford, Geo. F.	180-
Wilcox, Melvin A.	199-
Williams, T. W.	205-
Wright, J. A.	213
Woodhouse, Henry	214-
Wiggins, W. C.	219-
Wakeitler, P.	223-
Wilson, Woodrow. Hon.	254-
Wilcox, Clinton A.	302-
Wadsworth, Mrs L.	401-
Wagenseller, J. C.	415-
Whillocks Book Store	416-
Winsche, John L.	454-
Wurth, Chas, M.	465-
Wood-Smith, G. H.	471-
Wikeple, R. G.	472-
Wiid Horace B.	490-
Weisel, Elmer P. Sec.	492-
Washington Jr. Martin	496-
Weaver, Mrs A. A.	506-
Wolgamott, George A.	512-

W

Young, E. C. 51-
Young, Lewis L. 328-

Y

Jearfoss, W. H. 132-
Zuchiegner, Herbert. 398-583-
Zertage, Miss Mary 444-

First

November 7,1916.

Mr. C. F. Fredrickson,

Wheaton, Illinois.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 30th ultimo has been received. I read it through and found it very interesting.

I myself have been trying a great number of experiments with the violin, especially with the E string. The miscroscope shows that Violinists get results entirely by correcting their pitch by the ear. They hear the first part of the note and correct so quickly that the public do not catch the defect. Otherwise no one could play a violin successfully.

Yours very truly,

Hist
10

November 8,1916.

Mr. Louis Lazard,
92 William Street,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Lazard:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 6th instant in regard to the telegram you had received from your London office. You suggest at the bottom of your letter checking the quality of the shipments made to London and Bordeaux. The telegram would seem to indicate that their complaint concerned deliveries and not quality. Am I not right about this?

If they complained of irregular deliveries, there will be no further complaint on that score as we are now increasing our output, and shall be able to make shipment of any of your orders quite promptly.

Yours very truly,

First

November 7,1916.

Mr. A. Crawford Smith,
207 - 208 Law Building,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 2d instant was received. All I can say in reply is that we are struggling with the almost impossible solution of the problem of getting satisfactory labor and materials. We are badly handicapped just now, and are simply doing the best we can.

Soon as we can obtain intelligent labor and good material, we shall be able to produce smooth records.

Yours very truly,

November 7,1916.

Mr. Shunzo Takaki,
c/o Mitsui & Co., Ltd.,
25 Madison Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Takaki:

Referring to your favor of the 30th ultimo in regard to a board containing parts and assembly of Edison Alkaline Storage Battery, let me say that I shall be very glad to have the pleasure of presenting one of these boards to the Kyoto Imperial University, and I shall be glad if you will kindly arrange to present same with my compliments through yourself and Professor Awoyagi.

In due time, will you kindly give me shipping instructions so that I may have the sample board packed and forwarded when it is ready.

Yours very truly,

November 9,1916.

Mitsui & Company, Ltd.,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. Shunzo Takaki:

We have received a letter from the Woodward Iron Co., stating that they have deemed it necessary to voluntarily increase the wages of their employees 10% effective November 1st. We have also received from them the new scale of wages affecting the men at their Benzol and Naphthaline plants. You will find a copy also enclosed herewith.

Mr. Edison wishes me to submit this matter to you and ask if it will be satisfactory to you to make this new scale of wages effective as concerns the Benzol and Naphthaline plants in which you and Mr. Edison are interested.

So far as Mr. Edison is concerned, it is satisfactory to him, and if you agree, will you please notify Mr. Opdyke and advise me of your action so that we can reply to the Woodward Iron Company's letter.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

Test

November 9,1916.

Mr. C. Heine,

Hinckley, Ills.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 6th instant, Mr. Edison wishes us to say that we have recently recorded some Swedish and German songs. We expect and intend to record quite a number, but at the present time we have considerable trouble in getting good singers to render these songs.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

41

November 10,1916.

Mr. Louis Lazard,
92 William Street,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Lazard:

Your favor of the 9th inst., has been received. I regret to learn that your friends on the other side have made any criticism about the quality of the Para Phenylenediamine. We have tried our utmost to make a uniform quality, and have been supplying the material in large quantities in this country.

Let me say, for your information, and I am sure you will be glad to hear, that Mr. Edison has recently made an improvement in the process of manufacture, by reason of which the Para Phenylenediamine will be refined to a higher degree than formerly, and will be very uniform in quality. The new material will be ready very shortly, probably within two weeks, and I am sure you will receive compliments about it from the other side when we commence shipping it. In the meantime I will ask our people to check up carefully on the present standard of quality.

And further, for your information, that Mr. Edison has decided to conduct the sales of our chemicals through the regular organization of Thos. A. Edison, Inc. The Laboratory has done the pioneer work, and Mr. Edison does not wish that the Laboratory shall continue to be a selling organization. The sales of our chemicals will now be in the hands of Mr. A. C. Emery and his Assistant, Mr. F. D. Lockwood. Hereafter you can address your orders and correspondence to Mr. A. C. Emery, c/o Thos. A. Edison, Inc., Orange, N.J.

Let me add in closing that I shall always look back with the greates pleasure to the cordial relations which have existed between us since the beginning of our dealings with you, and I am sure you will find it will be very agreeable to continue these dealings with Mr. Emery and his Assistant.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

November 10,1916.

Mr. Claude Opdyke,
c/o Woodward Iron Co.,
Woodward, Ala.

Dear Mr. Opdyke:

Mr. Edison has decided that he did not wish the Laboratory to continue as a Selling Agency, and as we have done the pioneer work, he has turned over the sales of his Chemicals , etc. to the regular organization, Thos. A. Edison, Inc. The sales end will, therefore, be in charge of Mr. A. C. Emery and his Assistant Mr. F. D. Lockwood, so where you have heard from me in the past, you will probably hear from them.

Any papers, such as shipping lists, that you have been in the habit of sending to me should now be sent to Mr. R. W. Kellow here at the Laboratory.

I have greatly enjoyed the cordial relations that have existed between us and I think you will find that everything will go along splendidly under the new arrangements.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison

November 11,1916.

Mr. Eli C. Bennett,
Syndicate Trust Building,
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

In reply to your favor of the 27th ultimo let me say that I am willing you should use my name as a member of the "One Hundred Point Committee".

I understand from your letter that you will not call on me for the expenditure of any time in connection with the work of the Committee. I am so busy that it is not possible for me to give attention to outside matters, and for this and other reasons I am compelled to decline serving on many Committees, but in this case I have made an exception; so you may add my name to your list.

Yours very truly,

November 10,1916.

Mrs. Mary Gordon Dyer,
62 Prospect Street,
East Orange, N.J.

My dear Mrs. Dyer:

Allow me to thank you for your note and for the two old photographs which you have so kindly sent me. I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending them to me, and shall be glad to keep them in my collection.

Yours very truly,

November 11,1916.

Woodward Iron Company,

Woodward, Alabama.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. D. E. Wilson, Treasurer.

Replying to your favor of the 6th instant, in regard to increasing the wages of Benzol plant employees, I beg to advise you that I am quite agreeable to this increase of 10% as shown by the new scale enclosed with your letter.

Yours very truly,

First

November 14,1916.

Mr. Chas. N. Green,
Engineer Subsurface Structures,
Public Service Commission,
120 Broadway, New York,N.Y.

My dear Mr. Green:

I have received your favor of the 10th instant and have consulted Mr. Edison about its contents.

He wishes me to express his regret that he shall be unable to make a record of the Cornell Chimes at present as our portable recording machine is not yet finished. He was unable to give any approximate date when it would be ready.

I am sorry to have to send you such a discouraging report, but of course, cannot help it.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Visit

659

November 14,1916.

Mr. F. D. Lambie,
61 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Lambie:

Mr. Edison thinks it is very kind of you to suggest a visit to Mr. Wilson, but it would simply be impossible for him to get away to go with the party. He is still hard at work on his chemical problems and is spending his days and nights on this work. He is so very busy that he sees very few of our own officials, and even I disturb him with reluctance.

Of course, I would like to go, but my first duty is right here to go as a "buffer" between Mr. Edison and the world and I surely try to be on deck all the time so as to be of the greatest assistance to him. However, there is one thing I am hoping to do and that is to make a trip to Washington at the Inauguration. You will notice I use the word "Hoping".

With many thanks for your kind offer, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

Must
189

November 14,1916.

Mr. K. T. Felder,
1623 Hurt Building,
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Sir :-

Your favor of the 10th instant, has been received. My experiments on Potash were a great success, but on looking up the Patent Office records I found out that another inventor, living at Baltimore, had gotten ahead of me.

By fusing finely ground Feldspar with 75% of its weight of common salt, practically all of the Potash is made soluable. Nothing could be cheaper or simpler than this process from your standpoint, as there are plenty of Salt Wells near you, but the Baltimore man has the Patent.

Yours very truly,

Dist

November 15,1916.

Mr. Charles T. Gwynne, Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York,
65 Liberty Street,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Gwynne:

Allow me to thank you for your favor of the 14th instant enclosing tickets for Box No. 13, First Tier, at the Waldorf-Astoria, for Thursday evening November 16th. I have handed these tickets to Mrs. Edison.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Yurit
257

November 15,1916.

Guigy Ter-Meer Company,
89 Barclay Street,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. Kipp.

Mr. Edison wishes me to drop you a line to say that when your next shipment of the various kinds of Erio dyes come in, he would like to have you send him a half ounce sample of each one, and he will make tests at once and will take 20 pounds of the one that answers his purpose. On account of the expense of the material, he is quite willing that you shall charge him for the samples at the regular prices.

This does not change our telephone arrangements about five or ten pounds, of which you are going to send me a sample today. He will test it out right a way on receipt, and will let you know by Monday morning.

Thanking you for your kind attention, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Trust

November 14,1916.

Mr. John W. Herron, President,
Commonwealth Trust Company of Pittsburgh,
Pittsburgh, Penna.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 11th instant, enclosing copy of the Deed of Trust of the John A. Brashear Fund, and beg to say that the same is satisfactory to me.

Yours very truly,

Visit

605

November 14,1916.

Dr. George F. Kunz,
405 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Doctor Kunz:

I have received your favor of the 11th instant, in regard to the exhibition which you expect to make at the Museum of Natural History during Christmas week meeting in New York City of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

At the recent Chemical Exposition, I had an Exhibit Board containing exhibits of my Benzol products. This particular board is about eight and one-half feet square and is sixteen inches deep. I could send this over for exhibition if you do not think it too large. At the Chemical Exposition, I also had a small table, about three feet in diameter, on which I exhibited my Alkaline Storage Battery Chemicals and Nickel Flake. I make mention of both of these things so that you may decide whether you can avail yourself of either, both, or neither.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Next time I see you want some information about storage plates of Edison

Hist

November 15,1916.

Mr. Terra Christa Kruna,
130 West 121st Street,
New York City,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

In response to your letter, Mr. Edison has directed me to send you his subscription for one year for the "Art World". You will find subscription paper and check enclosed herewith.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

Lost

November 15,1916.

Mr. W. H. Palmer,
12 Lincoln Ave.,
Haddenfield, N.J.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 10th instant to Mr. Edison enclosing words of the song "De Watermilion Hangin on de Vine" has been received. Mr. Edison wishes me to ask you whether these words have been set to music, and if so, whether you can give him any information as to the publishers. If he can get the music he will have it looked into by our Music Committee and if satisfactory, will record it.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

November 14,1916.

Miss Lillia W. D. Trask,Librarian,
The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research,
66th Street and Avenue A,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Madam:

Replying to your inquiry of the 11th instant, let me say that the list of Fluorescent Salts was published in the Electrical Engineer, or a publication of that character, edited by T. Commerford Martin. The date of the issue was a few months after the publication of the discovery of the X ray, which I think was about the latter part of 1895. Somewhere in my Laboratory note books, I have a list of Fluoresing Salts far more extensive. Is there any particular point on which you wish to have information?

Yours very truly,

Pat
10

November 16,1916.

Mitsui & Co., Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. Shunzo Takaki.

I am writing this letter in pursuance of our conversation this morning in regard to the complaint concerning 331,400 lbs. of Phenol claimed to be of poor quality, as stated in your favor of the 14th instant with enclosures.

If Phenol is used for making Salicylic Acid, it need not be redistilled. The largest manufacturer in this country, The Heyden Chemical Company, takes from me Phenol which may be off color and uses it to the extent of two or three thousand pounds daily, in manufacturing Salicylic Acid. They told me it is not necessary to have white Phenol for manufacturing this article.

In this country, it costs 3¢ per pound, to redistill Phenol, including losses. I am willing to pay $4,971.00, or half the cost of redistilling the Phenol you have complained of, although if used for Salicylic Acid it would need no redistilling at all.

As to the Phenol that was shipped to Japan on your orders, let me say that when it was put into the drums, it was all above 39°C Melting Point, and was white. Very frequently the action of the Phenol on the metallic containers causes the material to discolor, even to blackness, and lowers its melting point. At the time of making shipments to you it was impossible to get drums which were properly galvanized, by reason of the

higher prices of zinc at the time. The manufacturers of the drums used very little zinc in galvanizing, thus exposing the iron to the action of the Phenol. The drums in question were furnished to us by your Company, and I believe that they were the best you could obtain at that time.

In making Salicylic Acid, the Phenol is dissolved in caustic soda, and the coloring that usually occurs by the Phenol being stored in iron drums or cans is not detrimental to the process, but when the Phenol is used for making Picric Acid, there is some doubt about the desirability of there being any trace of a metal present.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Unit
285

November 17,1916.

Mr. C. E. Speirs,
c/o D. Van Nostrand Company,
25 Park Place,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Speirs:

A few days ago you sent me four books of a popular nature for one of our young men to look at. He has an idea that he wants to make a study of chemistry, but does not know a thing about it. Since then he has gotten hold of some very elementary books which will answer his purpose. The four books which you sent me are as follows:

The New Knowledge by R.K.Duncan;
The Romance of Modern Chemistry by James C. Philip;
Chemistry of Familar things by Sadtler;
Chemistry of Commerce by Duncan.

The two books first above-mentioned we will keep for the Library here and you may bill them to Thomas A. Edison. The two books last-named I am returning to you by Express.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Hist

November 17,1916.

Levi G. Monroe, Esq.,

Spokane, Washington.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of August 28th to my Company was recently sent over to me, and I have read it with a great deal of interest. I am very much obliged to you for the names of the Old Time songs. We already have one, and I think two of them recorded, and I will obtain the music of the others that you mention. I am hunting for the old tunes that the real lovers of music prefer. The hypocrits say they like the disjointed unconnected string of non-melodic notes called "classical" music. I don't.

If you remember any more of the old songs, please send them on to me. I shall be glad to get them.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

110
103

November 18,1916.

Mitsui & Co., Ltd.,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Attention Mr. Shunzo Takaki.

Replying to your favor of the 17th instant, I hereby confirm my purchase from you of the entire output of Toluol from our Woodward plant, between January 1st and December 31st,1917, at the price of $1.25 per gallon.

You will, therefore, be able to go away on your trip to Japan without any worry about this product from the Woodward plant.

Yours very truly,

Night
574

November 20,1916.

Mr. Alfred J. Stofer,
c/o The Press, U. S. Senate,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Colonel W. M. Palmer of Haddenfield, N.J., has kindly send us a copy of the verse entitled "De Watermilion Hangin' on de Vine", and tells us that you have sung this a number of times in Washington. Colonel Palmer has an Edison Phonograph, and suggests that the song would make a good record. In order that our Music Committee might look into it and see if it is suitable for our records, we wrote to Colonel Palmer asking if he could advise us where we could get the music for this song. He replies to the effect that so far as he knows the music is not published, and suggests that we write and ask you.

If you care to give us any information on this matter, or make any suggestions, the same will be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1307.

P 1
555

November 20,1916.

Woodward Iron Company,

Woodward, Ala.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. R. H. Banister.

Referring to your favor of the 16th instant, with regard to the purchase of your Benzol for the year 1917. Complying with the second paragraph of your letter, we sent you the following Western Union telegram at 10:00 A.M. this day:

> "We are supplied with Benzol up to July,1917. Will want some after that.
> Edison"

Trusting our telegram reached you in due time,beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1323.

Wist

November 18,1916.

Mr. George Grantham Bain,
32 Union Square,
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bain:

Mr. Sloane informs me that he has written to you thanking you for your kindness in arranging to have a letter and some photographs sent over on the Deutschland for my daughter.

I write now to extend my personal thanks for your kindness in this matter and also to express my appreciation of the trouble you have taken.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Misc

November 21,1916.

Bureau of Standards,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:- Attention Dr. Wolff:

Mr. Edison requests me to write and ask you if you can send him the publication of Coblentz on Microradiometer work. If so, will you kindly address them to me and I will bring them to his personal attention when same are received.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1330.

November 20,1916.

Current Events,
10 Broadway,
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Replying to your favor of the 15th instant, let me say that I have never received the Nobel Prize, as it is impossible for me to meet the necessary condition, which is that the recipient shall go to Sweden to receive it.

Yours very truly,

November 21,1916.

Mr. Milton P. Jackson, Secretary,
Ohio Society of New York,
The Waldorf-Astoria,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Allow me to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 15th instant, and to express to you and to the members of the Ohio Society of New York, my sincere appreciation of their action in electing me to Honorary Membership in the Society. I accept this election with great pleasure.

Yours very truly,

Thos A. Edison

HA/1338.

Nitrate
159

November 21,1916.

Stein, Hirsh & Co.,

61 Broadway,

New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Replying to your inquiry, let me say that according to my experience and that of other manufacturers, the discoloration of Carbolic Acid does not affect its quality. Before the commencement of the War, I imported large quantities of Carbolic Acid from England and Germany, in fact, I think I was the largest user in the country at one time. All the Carbolic Acid that I ever received from England or Germany was discolored more or less, sometimes very much so, when I received it, but its quality was not affected, and I was always able to use it.

The discoloration comes from contact of the Carbolic with the metal of the container. Carbolic Acid is very sensitive, and a small particle of iron will discolor a large quantity and make it red or even brown, but so far as I and other manufacturers have found this does not affect the quality.

Yours very truly,

Thos A. Edison

A/1343.

Lost
72

November 21,1916.

Mr. Frederic A. Whiting,
Eleven State Street,
Framingham, Mass.

Dear Mr. Whiting:

Your favor of the 18th instant is very interesting, - so much so that if my hearing were normal I should be very much tempted to make a visit to The Cleveland Museum of Art to get the artistic effects you describe so well. It would do me no good, however, for, as you probably know, I am quite deaf and can only hear the records when I sit close by the instrument.

If I cannot accomplish any useful result by going, I can at least add to the pleasure of your son and his visitors by sending some records to the Museum. I shall therefore ask you and your son to make out a list of fifty records, send it to me, and I shall take great pleasure in presenting the same with my compliments. Let me suggest that your list should include an ample margin, as we might not be able at the time to fill any list of exactly fifty numbers.

When you are next in New York, I shall be glad to have you come to the Laboratory and see me. Perhaps it would be well to let Mr. Meadowcroft know a day or two ahead of your coming so as to make ~~sure~~ that I shall be here.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/1340.

November 23,1916.

Mr. Henry N. Hall,
c/o Editorial Rooms, The New York World,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Edison received your favor of the 10th instant, and he wishes me to say that although he cannot at the moment recall Mr. Schivre, he will help your fund along with $20.00. I therefore enclose check for this amount herewith.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

A/1346.

Hist

November 23,1916.

Mr. H. S. Percival, Secretary,
Halcyon Park Improvement Assn.,
Bloomfield, N.J.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to your recent correspondence with Mr. M. R. Hutchison, I am requested by Mr. Edison to send you his check for $100.00, payable to the Halcyon Park Improvement Association, the money to be used for the purpose of planting a screen of trees along the property of the Edison Company at Silver Lake. I shall be pleased to receive your acknowledgment of this check.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

A/1345.

First

November 24,1916.

Mr. Lewis Turrill,
1062 West Market St.,
Akron, Ohio.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 5th instant, we beg to say that in order to qualify for making records, a singer is required to make one or more trial records at our Recording Studio, 79 Fifth Ave., New York City. This is the only Recording Studio that we have, and we are not able to send to other places to get trial records of voices.

If you ever visit New York, you can call in at our Recording Studio, and see Mr. W. H. Miller, the Manager, who will give you an opportunity to make a trial record, which will be passed upon by the Music Committee. In order to avoid misunderstandings, we wish to state clearly that we do not pay the expenses of any one coming to the City to make trial records.

Yours very truly,
Edison Laboratory.

A/3360.

124/64

November 25,1916.

Mitsui & Co., Ltd.,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. Takaki or Mr. Nomura.

In order that you may have the matter in your files for reference, I beg to confirm what I told your Mr. Nomura over the telephone a few days ago, namely that Mr. Gora Kawamura, of Shibato Senyro Shoten, called to see me, and we had quite an interesting conversation about Para Phenylenediamine.

He stated that the 1000 pounds of Para Phenylenediamine which we had shipped on your order by Parcels-Post within the last two or three months was for his concern, and he had received word that it was very satisfactory. He inquired about how much we were making, and stated that his firm could use quite a large quantity. I told him that Mr. Edison was enlarging his plant so as to make 1000 pounds a day, and that we had already contracted to sell about 400 pounds a day. He seemed to think it was quite possible that his firm could use about 600 pounds per day. He stated that he was going to start for Japan on the next day, and expected to arrive in Japan about December 9th. I suggested that he take the matter up with his people immediately on his arrival, and if they decided to place an order that they should cable same to Mitsui & Co. in New York, as we would like to do this business through you. He stated he would do so.

163
165

He asked about the price. I did not mention any price to him, but explained that Mr. Edison had recently put in additional apparatus and had made an improvement in the process so as to refine the Para Phenylenediamine thus making it of a much superior quality, and although the new and better quality was really worth 15 to 20% more, Mr. Edison would supply it to his concern through Mitsui & Co. at the same price as before. I told him we would send him a two-pound sample of the improved quality, and I sent it over to his New York address by Special Messenger the same afternoon.

I hope we may be able to do this business with you, and you can correspond with me, as usual, in regard thereto. As to price, you will remember that the 1000 pounds we shipped by mail on your order was billed $5.25 per pound. If we carry out this business, Mr. Edison says that he would allow Mitsui & Co., Ltd., a commission of 12-1/2 cents per pound, which we could cover by a rebate bill.

Yours very truly,

W. H. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

152
397

November 24, 1916.

Mr. F. Allen Whiting,
Director, The Cleveland Museum of Art.
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Whiting:

I have been away from the Laboratory a few days on Government business, and find on my return, your favor of the 16th instant, which I have read with a great deal of interest and satisfaction.

I think that you are to be congratulated on having worked out such a perfect setting for the music. Evidently it is a labor of love with you, in which I most heartily sympathize.

I thank you for your very interesting letter.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

HA/1353.

ear

Next

November 24,1916.

Mrs. Ethel M. Manwaring Billings,
Mahopac Falls, New York.

Dear Madam:

Your kind favor of the 17th instant has been received and read with a great deal of interest. Your expressions of appreciation are very gratifying.

I wish to thank you also for the tribute in verse, which you have kindly dedicated to me. If I do not hear from you to the contrary, I will take the liberty of turning over these verses to the Editor of a small publication that we issue in the interest of the Diamond Disc Phonograph.

Yours very truly,

Thos. A. Edison

HA/1355.

Hist
203

November 27, 1916.

Dr. Arthur C. Wright,
c/o State of Maine Augusta State Hospital,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 21st instant has been handed to me. I would say in reply that I will look up the songs you mention, and if they are satisfactory I will have them recorded for the Disc Records.

Regarding your inquiry, let me say that the increased surface noise is due, first, to our making a harder record in order to obtain more overtones; and second, to the shortage of certain materials which we formerly imported because they are not made in this Country. The materials that we can obtain are of greatly inferior quality. All this can be remedied in time, and we hope to get out smooth records before long.

Yours very truly,

First

November 27,1916.

Mr. Edwin C. Barnes,
72 West Adams Street,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Barnes:

Durand has sent me a copy of your little publication "Barnes Talking". You are doing well, and I want to extend my congratulations to you on the first birthday of your little journal.

Yours very truly,

Thos A. Edison

Miss

180

[185]

November 29, 1916.

Miss Anna D. Beatty,
Conneaut Lake, Penna.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 15th instant was received. We beg to say in reply that Miss Annola Florence Wright made a trial record at our Recording Laboratory, but the same was not favorably passed upon by our Music Committee.

Please do not think from this that it is any reflection on her voice. It merely means that there are certain subtle technical requirements that are necessary for successful records for the Edison instrument, and Miss Wright's voice did not comply with those requirements.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

A/1406.

60
914

November 28,1916.

Prof. Luigi Romano,
Box 27, Station S,
New York City,
New York.

My dear Professor:

I am sorry to say that I have no news yet from Mrs. Edison. I have sent her all of your letters, and the matter rests entirely in her hands, so I must ask you to kindly be patient until you hear from her.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Hurst

November 28,1916.

Simmons-Boardman Publishing Co.,

Woolworth Building,

New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Lee: Attention Mr. Henry Lee:

Let me say in reply to your favor of the 28th instant, that Mr. E. E. Hudson has been with me for many years. He is one of the finest men I have ever had associated with me in business. Having had presented to him an offer which no man would be justified in refusing, he now breaks his connection with me.

He is the first competitor to whom I ever wished success.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/1405.

November 28.1916.

Mr. Paul Stanley Gill,
c/o The Gill Lumber Company,
Hippodrome Building,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 24th instant, let me say that I was named Alva for Alva Bradley of Cleveland, who was a great ship owner on the Lakes at that time, and who often visited my father.

Yours very truly,

A/1398.

Hirst

November 28,1916.

Dr. Oscar M. Marchman,
Wilson Building,
Dallas, Texas.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 21st instant, Mr. Edison requests us to say that water has been purified not by electricity, but by ozone made by electricity. If you are invited to go into any proposition of this kind, you should exercise very great caution as there are many fakirs abroad in this line of promotion.

Yours very truly,

A/1399.

First

December 1,19

Miss Marie Rogers,
c/o Mrs. M. Noyes,
1079 Beacon Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 28th ultimo, has been received, together with your first letter and newspaper clipping.

We would say, for your information, that before singers are accepted to make Phonograph Records, they are asked to make a trial record at our Recording Studio, 79 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. This trial record is then submitted to the Music Committee, which decides whether it is available for our list.

In order to prevent misunderstandings, we would state that we do not pay the expenses of singers coming to New York to make trial records, but that if you happen to be in the City and will call at the Studio and present this letter, Mr. W. H. Miller, the Manager will have a regular trial record made.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Enclosure.
P.S. - Newspaper clipped returned herewith.

A.

Hist

December 2, 19

Mr. W. H. Childs,
17 Battery Place,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

I regret to say that my previous business engagements will prevent me from accepting the invitation to Dinner at the Lotos Club on December fifth.

Yours very truly,

A/1439.

December 2, 19

Felix Boucher, Esq.,
Professor, Cours Complementaire,
7 rue St.Ferdinand,
Paris, France.

Dear Sir:-

Vive La France ! One of the finest people dwelling on the earth.

Yours very truly,

A/1434.

First

December 2, 1916.

Crystal Hosiery Mills Co.,
York, Penna.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 27th ultimo has been referred to Mr. Edison.

With every desire to be accomodating, he will be unable to comply with your request to defer further shipments of Aniline Oil. This will be apparent to you upon reading the following explanation:-

Mr. Edison went into the making of Aniline Oil to help the Textile and Rubber industries out of a very serious situation. A year ago it was impossible to obtain raw materials except at exorbitant prices, and even then it was very difficult to get these raw materials at all. Mr. Edison had equipped a plant, and was compelled to decide either to operate it for one year or not at all. He therefore made contracts with the various consumers (yours among the number) for definite quantities of Aniline Oil to be delivered over the present year. Having these contracts, he then made firm contracts for a definite supply of chemicals andraw materials for the year at very high prices. He is therefore compelled to take these raw materials for the entire year and pay for them. Consequently he is obliged to make the entire quantity of Aniline Oil contracted for.

You will see, therefore, that Mr. Edison cannot defer shipments of Aniline Oil under your contract. Anyway, there is so little remaining due to you, that we cannot see any particular hardship in your receiving it.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Wmax

A/1446.

Vizzt
243

December 4, 1916.

Brentano's,
Fifth Ave. & 27th Street,
New York, N.Y.
Attention Desk No. 6, Subscription Dept.

Dear Sirs:

Referring to your favor of October 27th, Mr. Edison wishes me to write and say that he will renew his subscription for one year to the following periodicals, namely:

Life, Century,
Harpers Monthly, Munsey,
Cosmopolitan, Harpers Weekly,
McClures Magazine.

These are to be sent to Mrs. Marie E. Oeser, Modenheimer Str. 4, Mulhauser Elsass, Germany.

Mr. Edison would like to know whether these periodicals ever reach their destination, as he himself cannot even receive letters. Will you kindly advise me on this point.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

242

December 4, 1916.

Brentano's,
5th Ave. & 27th St.,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Desk No. 8, Subscription Dept.

Mr. Edison wishes me to write and say in reply to your letter of October 30th, that he wishes to renew, for one year, his subscription to the following periodicals, namely:

N.Y.Herald(Daily and Sun)
Harpers Monthly,
Munsey,
McClures Magazine,
Everybodys Magazine,
Century,
Scribners Magazine,
Blue Book,
Red Book,
Puck,
Harpers Weekly.

These are to be sent to Thomas A. Edison, Jr..

Burlington, N.J.

Yours very truly,

[illegible]

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

491

December 5,1916.

Mr. H. S. Firestone,

Akron, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Firestone:

I have received the dummy of the souvenir book of our camping trip. The book is a gem. I cannot see how it could be improved, and consequently have no changes to suggest. I am returning the dummy by ~~mail~~* today.

If you will send the books to me when they are ready I will sign each one of them.

I could use ten copies of the book if you can spare that number.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/1477.

* Express

First
252

December 4, 1916.

Miss Loraine Follett,
c/o The Theosophical Society,
Lincoln Lodge,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Madam:

I have read with a great deal of pleasure your interesting letter of the 21st ultimo, and wish to thank you for writing me so fully and frankly. It is quite apparent that you think exactly as I do, and I want to assure you that you will be satisfied to the limit before I get through with recording music.

I am going to reply to your various questions in the same order in which they appear in your letter.

(1) We have had a large number of requests for printed slips giving the words of all vocal numbers, and we should be pleased to carry out the idea, but unfortunately are prevented by the copyright laws, and publishers will not consent except on terms that are prohibitive.

(2) We intend to produce records playing an accompaniment only. This has been our intention for some time past, but we have been so busy on our regular work that we have not had time to get to it.

(3) You will be glad to learn that we are getting up a very fine book which will contain the pictures of all our artists. There will be large portraits of Anna Case.

(6) We have been working for a long time on an automatic stop and will soon be able to furnish such a stop which will set itself for all records, and will be comparatively noiseless.

(7) I am sorry to say we shall be unable to repeat the two records by Marie Narelle and Charlotte Kirwan as they are in poor voice. I shall have these records made over by other singers, whom I think you will find entirely satisfactory.

(8) Most of the selections you mention will be issued in due time, and sung by some of our good singers.

I deeply appreciate all the good things which you are kind enough to say about the instrument and records. They are the results of years of hard work and study. I love music and sympathize with others of like tastes, so it affords me a great deal of pleasurewhen I receive letters like yours from those who are lovers of real music.

Yours very truly,

A/1475.

Vigot

December 4,1916.

Mr. Harry P. Bassett,

Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:-

I note that Patent No. 1,072,686 was issued to you on September 9,1913, for a process of obtaining Potash Salts from Feldspar, and that the patent was assigned to the Spar Chemical Company of Baltimore.

I write to inquire whether you or the Spar Chemical Company are doing any active work in the exploitation of this patent. I shall be glad to have you give me as full information as you consistently can in regard to this matter.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/1468.

Knight

December 4,1916.

Hon. Woodrow Wilson,

Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wilson:

I have had the pleasure of receiving, through Mr. Nelson C. Durand of my organization, the very fine photograph of yourself which you have kindly inscribed to me. I am much gratified to receive this and beg to extend my thanks to you for it.

Yours very truly,

A/1465.

Hist

December 5, 1916.

United States Hydrographic Office,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Will you kindly send me a copy of your Bulletin of May 13, 1914, in regard to Fessenden's Oscillation.

To ensure prompt delivery, will you kindly address the Bulletin to my Assistant, Mr. W. H. Meadowcroft, at this address.

Yours very truly,

A/1492.

Hirst

December 5, 1916.

Dr. Thomas T. Gaunt,
53 West 50th Street,
New York City, N.Y.

My dear Sir:-

The news of your brother's passing away came as a great surprise to me, and I learned of it with deep regret. I shall miss the genial cheeriness of his occasional visits to the Laboratory, and our pleasant association of many years.

Being in the midst of some very important experiments that need my constant attention, I was unable to get away to attend the funeral. I wish, however, to extend to you my sincere sympathy and condolence with you in the loss you have sustained.

Yours sincerely,

Kirst

December 6,1916.

Kasebier-Chatfield Shellac Co.,
175 Pearl Street,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Mr. Edison has asked me to write and see if you can furnish him with a copy of your booklet entitled "Shellac".

If this can be procured, will you please address it to me and I will bring it to Mr. Edison's personal attention.

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Wm. H. Meadowcroft
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1493.

Flint

December 5, 1916.

Lieut. Stanford E. Moses, U. S. N.,
Navy Yard, Philadelphia,
Machinery Division,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Moses:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 2d instant and in reply beg to say that I strongly approve of direct current drive in Machine Shops. With D. C. generators you will always have the potentiality of using the current for other purposes, all of which generally require direct current.

I believe D. C. is always safer. The arguments of many electrical people for A. C. are biassed because of the existence of A. C. patents, whereas the D. C. patents have practically all expired.

Yours very truly,

A/1488.

Gist

264

December 5, 1916.

Naval Constructor Elliot Snow, U. S. N.,
United States Navy Yard,
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Mr. Snow:

Mr. Hutchison has handed me your favor of the 2d instant. In reply let me say I find that in any voice tube the inner walls should not only be smooth like brass tubing, but should also be highly polished and buffed to a glare.

If the main tube is only one inch inside the taper part should be two inches diameter at the end in thirty-six inches. This will prevent an excessive number of reflections at the start, which occur with a close fitting mouth-piece on one end of a one inch tube.

You will certainly have difficulty with long pipes of small diameter if they are not tapered each way to the center. Even one-quarter inch in 100 feet is a help, but the greatest help is tubing of thick walls that will not be set in vibration by the voice. Such vibrations continue after the sound wave has ceased and produce muffling. A very high polish is desirable to prevent friction from pulling down the height of the small waves to zero, especially the hissing consonants. There is never any trouble with the vowels. It is also bad to have the length of pipe vary in caliper measurement.

You should look out that there are no pockets or extra spaces in the system of piping. For instance, on a Phonograph Reproducing or Recording horn:

~~If the well~~

263

Second Page of letter to
Naval Constructor Elliot Snow, U. S. N.,
United States Navy Yard,
Philadelphia, Pa.

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or if the space produced by connecting the horn to a Phonograph with a rubber tube is allowed, the sound is surprisingly diminished in volume.

Yours very truly,

A/1487.

Most

422

December 6, 1916.

Mr. P. M. Hargrave,
1405 Catalina Street,
Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Mr. Hargrave:

Your kind favor of the 28th ultimo has been received and is very much appreciated.

I am glad to learn that you enjoy your Phonograph so much, and trust that you may continue to do so for many, many years.

It is very kind of you to offer me your song book, and I will accept it with great pleasure, as I would very much like to have it. I am getting together all the old songs that I can find.

In order that it shall reach me safely, will you please address it to my Assistant, Mr. W. H. Meadowcroft, Edison Laboratory, Orange, N.J.

Please accept my thanks for your courtesy.

Yours very truly,

A/1479.

Just

December 7,1916.

Mr. Samuel Hill,
c/o The University Club,
Fifth Avenue & 54th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Hill:

Your note of yesterday's date to Mr. Edison has been received and shown to him. He is so busy on some important experiments that he has no time to write, but has requested me to say that he will be glad to see you and Mr. Metnikoff tomorrow.

I would suggest either between ten and twelve o'clock, or between two and four.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1498.

112

524

December 8, 1916.

Mr. Chas. E. Speirs,
c/o D. Van Nostrand Company,
25 Park Place,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Speirs:

Mr. Edison is anxious to secure some books and periodicals on Wood-Pulp. Will you kindly take care of Mr. Edison's request, sending same to me so I may be able to hand them to him personally.

Thanking you for your prompt attention in advance, and with kind regards, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Hint

REV. Fred Winslow Adams,

Rev. Fred Winslow Adams, A.M.,

[illegible] West [illegible] Street,

New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

I cannot answer the question contained in your favor of the 5th instant, as I never had any experience in such matters. I have never had time, not even five minutes, to be tempted to do anything against the moral law, the civil law, or any law whatever.

If I were to hazard a guess as to what young people should do to avoid temptation, it would be to get a job and work at it so hard that temptation would not exist for them.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

[illegible]

Liszt
310

December 9,1916.

Miss Louise Dunham Goldsberry,
427 Fourth Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Madam:

In reply to your favor of the 7th instant, we beg to say that some of Mr. Edison's favorite music is given in the following list:

Ah, Mon Fils - Le Prophete, Meyerbeer
Marie Delna, Contralto, In French (83019)

Ava Maria, Schubert-Wilhelmj
Carl Flesch, Violin, (82063)

Caro Nome (Dearest Name) Rigoletto, Verdi
Alice Verlet, Soprano, in Italian, (82080)

Depuis le Jour - Louis, Charpentier
Anna Case, Soprano, in French, (82077)

Forgotten, Cowles
Thomas Chalmers, Baritone, (50069)

Hungarian Dance No. 7, Brahms-Joachim
Albert Spalding, Violin, (82046)

I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen, Westendorf
Walter Van Brunt, Tenor
and Chorus, (80160)

Jolly Fellows Waltz, Vollstedt
American Symphony Orchestra, (50091)

Southern Roses Waltz, Strauss
American Symphony Orchestra, (50059)

Teenie, Eenie, Weenie - Suzi, Lincke
Helen Clark and Joseph A. Phillips
Contralto and Baritone, (82013)

O That we Two Were Mayin with
Elizabeth Spencer and Thomas
Chalmers, Soprano and Baritone, (83510)

Miss Louis Dunham Goldsberry, Page 2, 12/9/16.

William Tell Overture, Rossini
Edison Concert Band

The numbers refer to the Disc records for the Edison Diamond Disc Phonograph.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

A/1527.

248

December 12,1916.

A. W. Shaw Company,
Wabash Avenue and Madison St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen: File 18401 C

Referring to my previous letter and your reply of the 9th instant, let me say that I did not connect the book "How to Finance a Business" with the year's subscription to System.

Our Accounting Department has been instructed to send a check in payment, as we will retain the book.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1561.

First

December12,1916.

Mr. J. E. Franklin,
1130 North Cascade Avenue,
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 6th instant, and regret to say that I shall be unable to carry out your wishes in regard to the young man you mention.

From the experience of previous years, we have found it very undesirable to take into our employ young men whose talents run to invention. In an establishment like this, employing five to six thousand people, we are obliged to look for a continuous and steady output of manufactured articles, and each employee is expected to turn out his part of the output regularly.

I have no Department in which men are employed to perfect inventions. Therefore, I shall be unable to offer the young man a position.

Yours very truly,

A/1551.

Vist
938

December 12,1916.

Mr. Edgell R. Plaisted,

Montpelier, Vermont.

Dear Mr. Plaisted:

I have been greatly interested in reading your kind favor of the 6th instant, and wish to express to you my sincere thanks for writing me so fully and freely.

The War has certainly made it a very hard proposition for us to manufacture records. Embargoes have cut us out of material, and Munition Factories have taken our men and made it impossible for us to manufacture sufficient Discs to fully supply our patrons. Up to this time the Victor Company has not been embarrassed by Embargoes, but now they are up against a shellac embargo in Singapore, and there is not enough in the United States to pull them through if the embargo is not lifted in the near future.

The Victor Company has not tied up all, nor even a small number of great artists. They have several of the most prominent ones, but, except in the case of Caruso, it is my opinion that their prominence is not due to their voices, but to personality and dramatic ability. We claim to have practically all of the best voices. I would not consent to put Farrar on our records. She is a great actress, but from our technical standpoint her voice is not good.

As a general rule we do not put on artists whose voices have a tremolo. We think this is a defect, and not assumed by the artists, as many people think. This prevents us from using a considerable number of singers who have a newspaper reputation.

Mr. Edgell R. Plaisted, -2- 12/12/16.

You will be interested to learn that I have just completed a large special Studio in which I expect to record the Symphonies, Sonatas, etc., of the great masters. Unless for some unforeseen reason, I expect during the coming Summer that I shall do a great deal of work in this special Studio.

You must understand that if I put out too much high grade music, I get a "howl" from the Dealers to cut it out. They say their customers do not want the "high-brow stuff", etc., etc. But I shall go ahead anyway and if the Dealers will not handle it I will sell direct to the Phonograph owners who love the real music.

Yours very truly,

A/1555.

P.S. Since the above was written, I have heard the two records which you specify as being out of tune. I had two taken out of our stock and had them played to me in the presence of some of my people, and none of us could agree with you that they were out of tune. I think there may possibly be something wrong with your machine or its governor. I think you better have your Dealers man call and fix it. If he fails to do so, please write me and I will have one of our nearest Repair men call on you.

Hurst

December 12,1916.

Mr. T. T. Teague,
11 Fullerton Ave.,
Montpelier, Vermont.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 6th instant, let me say that there have been innumerable schemes proposed for using Selenium Cells, also bolometers. I myself have been trying a number of them.

The aqueous vapor of the atmosphere absorbs so much of the lower rays and the ultra violet rays, and there is so much of the hazy atmospheric interferences, that none of the schemes based on light have been made practical up to this time.

Yours very truly,

Thos. A. Edison

A/1566.

170

December 13,1916.

Mr. Edward S. Van Zile,
c/o The Wheeler Syndicate, Inc.,
373 Fourth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 11th instant to Mr. Edison, was received and laid before him. He wishes me to say that he will be unable to give you an interview at this time as he is on an experimenting campaign just now. The Marshall interview appearing in the Sun of Last Sunday, was given to Mr. Marshall by Mr. Edison in an interview some two or three months ago before Mr. Marshall went to Europe. The interview took place during a lull in Mr. Edison's work at that time.

Yours very truly,

D. Y. Ellsworth

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1585.

Post

December 13,1916.

Mr. Edward F. Bigelow,
President, The Agassiz Association,
Arcadia,
Sound Beach, Conn.

Dear Mr. Bigelow:

Mr. Baldwin has shown me your favor of the 8th instant, which I have read with much interest.

No overtones can be seen with the ordinary arrangement of a microscope, neither can they be photographed. By the aid of a complicated device, however, the overtones and defects can be seen, and they show innumerable more waves than are now seen.

Most of the scratch is in the matrix, due to the impossibility of obtaining graphite that will cover the wax master evenly. This makes a new series of waves, which being non-periodic, produce noise. We are bound to reduce this noise to a minimum.

The Victor surface can be and is also noisy in the bottom of the groove, but as any movement up and down does not affect their diaphragm, no noise is produced.

Yours very truly,

A/1572.

Hirst

December 14,1916.

Mr. Leo Bugg,
40 West 32d Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 12th instant, Mr. Edison requests us to say that there is copper in the old mine on the property referred to, but the grade is so low that he does not think it would pay to work it, even at 32 cents per pound.

Yours very truly,
Edison Laboratory.

A/1594.

Just

December 13,1916.

Mr. A. I. Clymer,

Van Wert, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Clymer:

Replying to your favor of the 11th instant, let me say that we have scarcely any War business with the Storage Battery. Our trouble is to compete with the lead battery.

We propose putting in a plant to roll our own steel down from thin band size to the very thin size we use. We also contemplate a plant to make our own hard rubber. These will require a good part of our profits for next year, but we will then be in a position to give Dealers a greater discount. They will not handle the Battery at present unless we do so and we have always been compelled to sell direct.

We have sold only three submarine batteries. We have to fight a hard combination, which does things we cannot do.

Yours very truly,

A/1800.

Hirst

December 15,1916.

Mr. Frederick H. Cowles,
The Apthorp,
West End Ave. and 78th St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Cowles:

It was with deep regret that I learned of the passing away of your Father. He was one of my early and esteemed friends, and my recollections of him will always be of a most pleasant nature.

Allow me to extend my sympathy and condolence with you in the bereavement which has overtaken you.

Yours very truly,

Chas. A. Cowles

A/1571.

Visit

December 14,1916.

Mr. E. B. Johnson,
R. D. No. 1, Box 33,
Claremont, N.H.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of October 27th was handed to Mr. Edison, who has been exceedingly busy during the last two or three months, and has had but little time to get to his mail.

He wishes us to say in reply to your remarks that we have been experimenting for some time past to make a satisfactory "start", but we have been so very busy with our regular work that we could not take the time necessary for its proper development. We have not a good start at the present time, but later we intend to come out with twelve-inch Disc Records. When these are ready, we will make a change and then the start on both types of records will be satisfactory.

We already have an automatic stop, which we have been working on for a long time. It does not need to be set, and we think will prove very satisfactory. We expect to bring it out before long.

Mr. Edison also requests us to inform you that he is working on producing Grand Opera by film and the Diamond Disc, and will probably have it ready in about a year.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

A/1582.

2344
5 8H

December 16,1916.

M H-Aterite Company, Inc.,
55 John Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sirs: Attention Mr. Leach.

Referring to our recent correspondence, Mr. Edison wishes to report as to tests we have made on the sample of Aterite recently submitted. These tests show as follows:

Treatment	% Loss in weight in 1 day
Conc HCL	2.58%
Dil HCL	2.31%
Conc H_2SO_4	3.77%
Dil H_2SO_4	.030%
Conc HNO_3	12.8%) Loss in weight
Dil HNO_3	11.2%) by but one acid
	) treatment.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/161B

311

December 19,1916.

Mr. Paul J. Kruesi,
Chairman Brief Committee,
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Dear Mr. Kruesi:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 14th instant, and just drop this line to let you know that the Armor Plate Brief arrived and has been brought to Mr. Edison's attention. He took it up to the house, so I suppose he will read it there at his leisure.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1633.

Wrong

December 16,1916.

Mr. Aug. A. Prinz,
109 4th Street,
Red Wing, Minn.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 11th instant, Mr. Edison wishes us to say that we make good on records which develop cracks, but not on those that are broken in two or more pieces. Not one in 50,000 ever breaks unless it is dropped on a hard floor.

Some of our earliest make of records have developed cracks running into the music, and making a loud sharp click. These we always take back from the Dealer and give new ones in exchange.

Yours very truly,
Edison Laboratory.

A/1603.

53

December 19,1916.

Mr. J. A. Roberts,
Assistant Treasurer,
The Smith-Worthington Co.,
Hartford, Conn.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to thank you for your favor of the 14th instant, and am glad to learn that Mr. Lieb accepted the items mentioned for additions to the Edisonia Collection.

This is very interesting, and I appreciate your kindness in offering the same and also in advising me as to the final disposition of same.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1640.

345
426

December 19,1916.

American Oil & Supply Co.,

92 William Street,

New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. A. E. Jones.

Your favor of the 15th instant in regard to your difficulties with the sale of Para Phenylenediamine has been received, and its contents duly considered.

I wish to say that the only answer I can make is that Hollanders, who use more than all your customers put together, had good success with our product. I can only surmise that the trouble complained of is due to a lack of knowledge as to how to use the material. Hollanders report that the new product is perfect.

The melting point and all other tests prove that our new product is the highest grade of Para Phenylenediamine.

Yours very truly,

A/1636.

Hurst

December 20,1916.

PERSONAL:

Mr. Leo Stein,
61 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Friend Stein:

As you already know, I no longer sell the chemical products myself through Mr. Meadowcroft, but turned the whole thing over to Mr. Emery, who has engaged Mr. Lockwood to get around to see customers.

So far as I am personally concerned, I would continue to trade with you in preference to any other person, except Hoffman, but the trouble is that Emery is trying to get the highest prices possible. Of course, I cannot quarrel with this.

I will make some inquiries and find out why he does not have Lockwood call and see you.

Personally, you and I will have no quarrel with each other.

With the Compliments of the Season and all good wishes, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

P.S. Since the above was written I have learned that Lockwood has called on you this morning.

A/1648.

167

December 20,1910.

Mr. Frederic A. Whiting,
Eleven State Street,
Framingham Center,
Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Whiting:

I received your favor of the 15th instant, and showed it to Mr. Edison. He wishes me to tell you that Rappold is in bad voice half the time, and that one of his troubles is that at times our best singers cannot sing, and he is obliged to reject the master records.

He also wishes me to say that the new records have more overtones and are louder and better, but the ------- scratch is greater, and he is working at it 18 hours a day to get rid of it.

In your letter you say you are unable to find Christine Millers record of Annie Laurie in your list. In my Catalogue this record is listed as 80315. Possibly I have a later Catalogue and I am going to send one to you under separate cover by this mail.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1665.

Hurst

December 21,1916.

Mr. Eli Ives Collins,
Editor, "Redhurst Pointer",
Redhurst, Branford, Conn.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Edison has received your note of the 13th instant, and also copy of the "The Redhurst Pointer". He has found it quite interesting and has requested me to send you a year's subscription for this publication. You will find 50¢ enclosed herewith.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1669.

Enclosure.

Must

December 21,1916.

The Spar Chemical Co.,
Baltimore, Md.

Gentlemen:

On the 4th instant I wrote Mr. Harry P. Bassett a letter of which I enclose a copy.

I have had no answer from Mr. Bassett, and as the letter is self-explanatory, possibly you may be able to give me some information on the subject.

Yours very truly,

A/1675.

Enclosure.

57
53,1

December 21,1916.

E. I. Du Pont De Nemours & Co.,

Wilmington, Delaware.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. E. N. Wead, Auditor.

Replying to your favor of the 19th instant, in regard to Mr. Louis Lazard of 92 William Street, New York City, we beg to send you herewith copy of report made to this office by the Manager of our Credit Service Department.

In addition, let me say that as we understand it, Mr. Lazard was the head of a Belgian Chemical House with Branches in England and France, but was obliged to flee to America. We understand that he ships goods throughhis London and French Branches.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

A/1684.

228
611

December 22,1916.

Mitsui & Co., Ltd.,
25 Madison Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. S. Homura:

Referring to your call on the telephone this afternoon asking whether Mr. Edison could spare 10,000 gallons of Benzol per month, January, February and March, I beg to say that I have laid the matter before him, and he says he cannot spare any, as he purchased all the Woodward Benzol for use in his Chemical plants, and could not let any go.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1695.

265

December 22, 1916.

Mr. P. M. Hargrave,
1405 Catalina Street,
Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your recent favor, and since then the book of your songs has come to hand. I have given this to Mr. Edison, and he is going to look over it and see what he can find that will be suitable for records.

He wishes me to extend his sincere thanks to you for your kindness in letting him have this book.

He wishes to extend the Compliments of the Season to you, in which I heartily join.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1691.

Must

December 22,1916.

E. B. Badger & Sons Co.,
63-75 Pitt Street,
Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen:

I feel very much gratified this morning because I have had the pleasure of countersigning a check for you in settlement of the old account. It has been a long time pending, but I am glad it has at last been settled.

With the Season's Greetings, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1687.

Hist
664

December 22,1916.

Mr. Joseph P. Day,
31 Nassau Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Day:

Your favor of the 19th instant with map was received, and I handed it to Mr. Edison in the usual way.

Mr. Edison does not write or dictate letters himself, but usually makes a memorandum on a letter, and I usually answer it accordingly.

It occured to me that as a matter of interest you would like to have his original memorandum on your letter, and although I very seldom let one of these originaly memorandums go outside of the office, I thought you would perhaps like to have it to preserve as a memento of your meeting with him. Therefore I am returning your letter of the 19th instant, together with the map.

Undoubtedly you will write to him in answer to this memorandum, and in addition I beg to ask that you will have your Stenographer write another copy of your letter of December 19th, so that I can keep my files complete.

Let me suggest, unless you have a better idea, that in answering Mr. Edison's memorandum you send back the map enclosed, and also at the same time a very much enlarged map of the particular section to which you wish to call his attention. Then I would take a blue pencil and on the large map put a ring around the section of which you send an enlargement.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosures.
A/1688.

Hurst

December 22, 1916.

Greetings to the Members of

American Druggists Syndicate:

Gentlemen:

I have been somewhat interested in your line of sorrow and worry for the last two years, manufacturing many kinds of chemicals for human and inhuman purposes. Although I was the first in the field on some lines, I shall probably be the first one to retire.

There are so many chemical works now being erected, that it will not be very long before practically every known chemical will be made in the U. S. A. in quantities to suit. As to price, - don't worry, - cutting prices is a favorite American pastime. That's why I expect to retire.

Yours very truly,

A/1678.

154

December 23,1916.

F. Bredt & Co.,
240 Water Street,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. Geo. W. Brish.

Your favor of the 21st instant has been received, and I beg to say that we are going to make Benzidine, and can make either Base or Sulphate. I cannot give you any definite date of delivery yet, as we are very much delayed on account of troubles in obtaining machinery.

Wishing you the Compliments of the Season, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Trust

December 22,1916.

Markets,
50 Broad Street,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 20th instant has been received. I am not "up" on finance, so you will have to excuse me from offering any views on the subject.

Yours very truly,

A/1689.

Hirst

December 22,1916.

Mr. Charles F. Ring, M. D.,
189 Claremont Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 19th instant. While I am quite in sympathy with any research work of the character you mention, I shall be unable to be of any financial assistance to you.

The big fire that we had at this plant some time ago put a tremendous strain on my finances, and I am not yet entirely out of the woods. Therefore I am not in a position to finance anything but my own business at this time.

Yours very truly,

A/1686.

Shutt

December 22,1916.

Dr. Cleveland H. Shutt,
Hospital Commissioner,
City of St. Louis,
Missouri.

Dear Dr. Shutt:

Allow me to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 19th instant and to say that I have read it with a great deal of interest. I am always glad to have our patrons offer suggestions on musical selections, and I am going to look into the one you mention, namely, the Triumphal March from Aida, and shall probably record it. I think the question of recording this came up some time ago, but just then we were congested with a great amount of music to be recorded, and it was laid aside for future consideration.

Now in regard to the other question discussed in your letter, let me say that I intend to make a very delicate phonograph to record the sounds you mention, but on account of the very slight amplitude of the waves it will be quite a difficult matter unless a carbon telephone is introduced. Then comes up another difficulty, and that is, I am afraid that the telephone would entirely falsify the results.

I feel quite sure that in various diseases there are a great number of low-pitch waves given out, which are too slow for the ear to catch, but which can be recorded and made audible by special apparatus. It has always been a wonder to me that modern science has not produced more apparatus for diagnosis.

Yours very truly,

A/1690.

Christ

December 22, 1916.

Mrs. J. S. Barber,
Box 46,
Cedarville, Ohio.

Dear Madam:

I have received your very interesting letter, and beg to express my appreciation of all the good things you are pleased to say about the Diamond Disc Phonograph and Records.

In reply to your inquiry, let me say that the Sopranos in the "Hallelujah Chorus" are Mary Carson, Elizabeth Spencer and Marie Kaiser, and in the "Gloria" Gladys Rice and Elizabeth Spencer.

Wishing you the Compliments of the Season, I remain,

Yours very truly,

A/1696.

Draft

December 26,1916.

Mr. Joseph D. Baucus,
71 Broadway,
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr. Baucus:

In your letter of October 30th to Mr. H. F. Miller, there occurs the following sentence: "When the election is over, and business settles down again, and my directors get back on the job, I will send you a check for the amount of my indebtedness".

Mr. Edison thinks that you ought to concede by this time that the election is over, and wants to know if you can't send him the check at once.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

you th

A/1710.

Draft

December 26,1916.

Mr. F. M. Feiker,
Editor, Electrical World,
239 West 39th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Feiker:

I received your favor of the 22d instant, but have been unable to secure Mr. Edison's attention to the matter until now.

Of late, he will not permit any published matter to appear as being an article written by him. He insists that it shall be in the form of an interview. He made a few additions to your draft, and has requested me to put it in the form of an interview, which I have done and enclose it herewith.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1718.

Enclosure.

Post
524

December 27,1916.

Mr. E. G. Liebold,
Secretary to Mr. Henry Ford,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Mr. Liebold:

I received the enclosed letter from Mitsui & Co., Ltd., this morning stating that General Fukuda's arrival in America had been delayed five days and that unfortunately he will be unable to stop over on his trip to San Francisco. I thought I had better send this to you, so that you will be posted.

I trust that you have had a very pleasant Christmas time and also that Santa Claus was kind to you. Add to these my best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year and my kindest regards, believe me, as ever,

Yours sincerely,

A/1720.

Enclosure.

Read

December 26,1916.

Mr. Thomas S. Murray,
54 Wall Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Murray:

The Aniline Plant is on its last lap. We shall stop manufacturing Aniline Oil on December 31,1916, when all our contracts expire. There are now about 20 Aniline Plants in this country, and they are all selling at a loss on account of competition. I sold none below cost.

However, we are making at the Aniline Plant, a product called Para Phenylenediamine, which is sold to Fur Dyers. I believe we can make some money on this, and I will keep it up until it ceases to pay.

I will try and sell some of the machinery and apparatus of the Aniline Plant for other chemical uses.

Yours very truly,

A/1706.

340

December 27,1916.

Mr. Max Thomsen,
c/o Kaiserhof Hotel,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Thomsen:

I am writing you a little personal note, and I hope you will accept it in the spirit in which it is written.

One of our important people has just returned from Chicago, and told me that he saw Mr. Edison's photograph inscribed to you standing in a place in the window of a Cafe among a lot of bottles of liquor, etc. I rather think that you may not know of this, as I am sure you will not think it a dignified place for a photograph of Mr. Edison inscribed to yourself, and I thought I would drop you a line, as I am sure you would not care to have our people criticise it in Mr. Edison's personal presence.

Wishing you the Compliments of the Season,

I remain,

Yoursvery truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1716.

Hunt

December 27,1916.

A No 1,

Erie, Pa.

Dear Friend:

O,yes! we all remember you, and we are glad you have give up the wanderlust and that you have settled down. I guess Baby Ruth will be a strong incentive to remain settled.

We are also happy to know that our friend Burbank has at last married. He is a fine man, and we have no doubt he will be happy.

We all wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

A/1727.

Just

December 28,1916.

Mr. Herbert C. Hoover,
Chairman, Belgian Kiddies, Ltd.,
Room 2124, 120 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Edison received the circular letter in regard to Belgian Kiddies , Ltd. He has subscribed two shares, and I hand you herewith check number U 1083, for $24.00 in payment therefor.

The blank application form has been marred, and we cannot use it. Will you please make the certificate for stock in the name of Thomas A. Edison, whose address is Orange, N.J.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1734.

Enclosure.

383

December 28,1916.

D. Van Nostrand Co.,
25 Park Place,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Speirs: Attention Mr. C. E. Speirs.

Mr. Edison wants you to send down to his Florida address a book entitled "Principles of General Physiology" by William Maddock Bayliss, published by Longmans, Green and Co., New York. The address is Fort Myers, Florida. Please send bill to Orange.

Wishing you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year, and with kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1738.

Hunt

December 28,1916.

Hatheway & Reynolds,

Oriskany Falls, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Replying to your favor of the 23d instant, let me say that I have one of our men working on the scheme of changing automatically from the closing to the starting of a Disc Record. Of course, I cannot even state any approximate time when we may expect to finish the experiments.

We already already have repeat devices on the Cylinder Machines, but have not yet applied them to the Disc.

Yours very truly,

A/1729.

Visit

January 2, 1917.

Lee de Forest, Esq.,
1391 Sedgwick Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 28th ultimo to Mr. Edison has been received this day. We regret to say that he is confined to the house with a rather severe cold, and acting on the advice of his Physician will probably stay home a few days longer. As soon as he returns I will bring your letter to his attention.

Yours very truly,

W. Miller Drake

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1760.

Hest

December 29,1916.

Mr. Frank Morton Todd,
Official Historian,
Panama-Pacific International Exposition,
Administration Building,
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 22d instant, let me say that I have never heard an ordinary telephone since the year 1878, when I was experimenting with carbon transmitters. My deafness increased so much at that time that I have since been unable to hear over the telephone, except at the Panama Exposition, where I understood most of what was said, the instrument being of a special character and extremely loud.

Yours very truly,

Geo.

A/1743.

250

673

January 4,1917.

Mr. H. S. Firestone,

Akron, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Firestone:

Referring once more to the matter of the Rubber Club Dinner, I think it is best to write you to let you know that there is very little, if any, prospect of Mr. Edison being able to get over to the Waldorf-Astoria next Monday.

He has been confined to the house for a week with a very severe cold, which for a short time was rather threatening. He has not been down to the Laboratory this week and we do not expect him.

I think it is well therefore to advise you of this fact, as I think there will be no probability of his being able to go to New York next Monday night.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1779.

First

January 4, 1917.

Lee de Forest, Esq.,
1391 Sedgwick Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

I have shown Mr. Edison your favor of the 28th ultimo, and he requests me to say in reply that if you will obtain from Secretary Daniels a request to Mr. Edison for the Disc and Diamond point stylus, he, Mr. Edison, will carry out your request.

Yours very truly,

W. Miller

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1778.

Visit

January 4, 1917.

Mr. Edward Babcox,
Advertising Manager,
Firestone Tire & Rubber Co.,
Akron, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Babcox:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 2d instant enclosing photograph showing a hotel at Blue Mountain Lake in the Adirondacks.

If the Hotel shown is the Prospect House, this was the first isolated hotel in the World to have an incandescent electric light plant. This plant consisted of two Edison Z dynamos and 332 lamps. The lay-out and installation of the plant was done in the early Summer of 1882 under Mr. Edison's personal directions. The work was actually done by one of our Engineers, Mr. G. W. Waters, and the operation of this early electric light plant was commenced on June 16,1882.

The hotel was then many miles from a Railroad, and the apparatus and machinery had to be hauled up the mountain by mule-teams. The hotel was located so far away from the Railroad that they did not burn coal under the boiler that generated steam for the electric light plant. Instead of coal, wood was used under the boiler, and our Engineer at that time kept careful figures as to the consumption of fuel. and found that 1/4 of a cord of wood was sufficient to run the electric light plant for six hours, the usual duration of an evening lighting. The cost of the wood was not much more than 25¢

Trusting this information will answer your purpose, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Wm Hollaadowaay

A/1770 Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Next

January 5, 1917.

Mr. William F. Morgan, Vice Chairman,
State Executive Committee,
Young Men's Christian Association,
Room #1006, Wiss Building,
Newark, N. J.

My dear Mr. Morgan:-

Replying to yours of the 2nd instant enclosing your annual letter to Mr. Edison requesting contribution for the year 1917 I beg to advise that I have submitted this letter to him and he directs me to write you that he is sending all the money he can spare to Europe where the need is so great. He will therefore be unable to help you this year. I am enclosing herewith the subscription book which accompanied your letter.

Yours very truly,

H. M. J. Miller

Treasurer.

HEM/JWS

329

January 6,1917.

My dear Mr. Daniels:

Allow me to thank you for your kind favor of the 5th instant. You will be glad to learn, I am sure, that Mr. Edison has been improving in health day by day since Tuesday last. The Doctors strongly advised him to stay in the house all this week, and, wonderful to relate, he has submitted, although he has a vast amount of work waiting for him at the Laboratory.

I wish to thank you for your kindness in making the arrangements for Mr. McChesney to obtain certain motion pictures at the Naval Academy. The letter from the Acting Chief of the Bureau of Navigation has been received, and I will hand it to Mr. McChesney.

With all good wishes, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Josephus Daniels,
The Secretary of the Navy,
Washington, D. C.

440

533

January 6, 1917.

Mr. E. G. Liebold,
Secretary to Mr. Henry Ford,
Detroit, Mich.

My dear Mr. Liebold:

I must ask you to kindly excuse the delay in replying to your favor of the 29th ultimo, in which you state that Messrs. Sorenson and Dailey are desirous of calling to see Mr. Edison regarding different methods of plating.

The reason of the delay has been on account of Mr. Edison's illness. A week ago yesterday he went home at noon feeling quite under the weather with a very severe cold. He became worse and developed a temperature. Mrs. Edison sent for the Doctor, who found Mr. Edison quite sick. He was in bed several days, and the Doctor told him that it would be very risky for him to leave the house at all this week. I am glad to say, however, that he has been improving rapidly the last two or three days. He has just begun to look at his mail, and I sent your letter up to him.

I have just received a memorandum from him asking me to explain to you, and say that he expects to be at the Laboratory next week and all through the rest of the month, and will be glad to see Messrs. Sorenson and Dailey when they come over.

Yours very truly,

Wm Hallewell

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Matt

January 8,1917.

Mr. Joseph P. Day,
31 Nassau Street,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Day:

I have heard this afternoon from Mr. Edison in regard to the matter of the option you gave him on the additional land adjoining Parcel No. 1.

He wishes me to write and say to you that he will not take advantage of the option. As I told you over the telephone, he is ill and staying at home, and at present he says he is a Pessimist.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1820.

283
679

January 9,1917.

Mr. W. S. Mallory, Pres.,
Edison Portland Cement Co.,
Broadway & 26th Street,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Mallory:

I have received your favor of the 8th instant concerning Senator Ackerman's request to you to learn whether or not Mr. Edison would be inclined to favor the location of the United States Armor Plate Mill at Cumberland, Md. I have not submitted this letter to Mr. Edison for two reasons. First, the matter of the United States Armor Plate Mill does not come within the province of the Naval Consulting Board of which Mr. Edison is Chairman. Second, Mr. Edison is extremely reluctant in view of his official position, to express any opinion in regard to these Government questions.

I shall, therefore, keep your letter on file as I do not think it would be wise to submit it to Mr. Edison.

Yours very truly,

Wm H. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1841.

P.S. He is constantly improving in health each day. We expect him to come down within [illegible]

Hist

January 9,1917.

Mr. E. T. DeLoach,
Millen, Ga.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 6th instant has been received. Before we can come to any decision as to whether or not a singer is satisfactory for making records, we must first hear a trial record. We could not pass judgement upon a record made by a phonograph in the home. These trials can only be made at our Recording Studio in New York City, No. 79 5th Avenue, New York.

We do not pay the expenses of singers coming to make a trial record, but if you should happen to be in New York some time, and would call at our Studio and present this letter, they will take a trial record of your voice, to be submitted to the Music Committee.

We suggest to you that it would not be worth your while to go to the expense of making a special trip for this purpose, as there are hundreds of fine voices to be obtained within a few miles of our plant.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

A/1832.

543

January 10,1917.

Mr. Thos. P. Westendorf,
1919 Michigan Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Westendorf:

I enclose herewith a clipping published by The Wildwood Publishing Co.. Ft.Wayne, Ind., entitled "My Mother" by Hervey Smith McGowan.

You will notice on the upper end, a memorandum of Mr. Edison's requesting me to send it to you, as he thinks you might be able to get a song out of this.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Enclosure.

A/1848.

First

January 10,1917.

Mrs. Frank A. Eaton,
617 North Jamison Ave.,
Lima, Ohio.

Dear Madam:

Mr. Edison wishes me to acknowledge the receipt of your note, together with clipping from a newspaper of a selection "My Mother", and to thank you for kindly sending it to him.

He is looking into the question of recording it, and will decide the matter later on.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1849.

Digest

January 10,1917.

Mr. B. F. Lovelace,
Department of Chemistry,
John Hopkins University,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 5th instant to Mr. Edison has been received. He has been ill for a few days and is still at home, but I am glad to say he is improving each day.

As to your request for information for Chapters XIII and XIV of the Chemical Directory, I would say that the chemical plants which Mr. Edison installed were only intended as a temporary "stunt" to help out the industries during the War times. He would not care to publish any account of processes or appliances that he has devised for these temporary plants, as they were installed quickly and, primarily, to get the products out very quickly. Mr. Edison is interested in the Directory, which I see is to be issued in February. Will you please enter his order for a copy of this Directory when published. Please send the book and invoice to me, the former I will bring to his immediate attention on arrival, and the latter I will put through our Cashiers office.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1843.

338

January 10,1917.

Mr. Edgell R. Plaisted,

Montpelier, Vermont.

Dear Mr. Plaisted:

The reading of your letter has afforded me a great deal of pleasure, and I found it very interesting.

When I look at the blue print of your drawing of the Corliss Engine, and realize that it was the work of an untaught draftsman, I feel some regret that the original and your letter of application did not reach me some thirty odd-years ago. I see from your letter, however, since that time you have had some practical experience in the World, and possibly you have enjoyed it as much as you might have enjoyed life in my shops.

In view of your great love for beautiful music, with which I am most heartily in sympathy with you, I am glad to learn that you won a prize in the recent contest, and I trust that you will never have cause to regret your disposition of a portion of the money, but on the contrary that you will derive more and more enjoyment from the music as the days go by.

Let me thank you for your letter, also for the blue print, and last but not least, for the beautiful photograph which you were kind enough to send me. I have read your verses "My Chum and I" with a great deal of pleasure, and I would suggest that you send a copy of them to the magazine of the Agassiz Association "The Guide to Nature" at Sound Beach, Conn. I think they would be glad to get it.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/1852

Hart

January 11, 1917.

Mr. T. Commerford Martin,
29 West 39th Street,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Martin:

I am afraid our friend Mr. Feiker has rather made a mess of it. In physical appearance the article in the Electrical World of January 6th would mislead nine men out of ten, and would give them the idea that it was an article by Mr. Edison.

When Mr. Feiker sent his manuscript for Mr. Edison to look over, Mr. Edison strenuously objected to this form, which was in the nature of an article. He wrote a very characteristic memorandum to me objecting to the article form, and asked me to put it in the form of an interview, have it typewritten, and send to Mr. Feiker, explaining that it should only appear as an interview.

This was done. I did not change the substance, but wrote a little introductory heading conveying the interview idea. I also interjected a question further along, so as to emphasize the interview idea still further.

I have just received this morning, three copies of the Electrical World, and find that Mr. Feiker has taken the liberty of cutting out what I wrote at Mr. Edison's special request. I am afraid Mr. Edison will be greatly vexed if he sees it. As you know, he has been confined to the house by illness, but is down at the Laboratory for a short time today. It might be possible that the article will escape his notice. I shall not call his attention to it, but if he should happen to see it, I do not think it would be of any use for Mr. Feiker to ask him for another interview. I am awfully sorry it happened this way.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

W. H. Meadowcroft

A/1860

Hurst

(03)

January 13,1917.

Mr. Fred. M. Kimball, Mgr.,
Small Motor Department,
General Electric Company,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Kimball:

Referring once more to your favor of the 3d instant in regard to Mr. Johnson O'Connor and motion picture films, I have just learned that Mr. O'Connor has already been in touch with Mr. L. W. McChesney, Manager of our Motion Picture Studio, and also with one of our Engineers. All matters relating to Motion Pictures come within the province of the Motion Picture Studio, and Mr. Edison does not interfere in any way with the handling of the particular questions relating thereto.

You and I are old friends, and I want to be plain and frank with you, of course, in a confidential way.

Our people are rather warm under the collar about Mr. O'Connor trying to get Mr. Edison's personal attention to a matter that is already being officially attended to, and I am sorry that Mr. O'Connor has "used" "you" in this connection.

Under the circumstances, I should have to explain the whole matter to Mr. Edison if Mr. O'Connor insists on trying to see him personally. If you will allow one old friend to suggest to another, my suggestion to you would be to back out of this affair.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1899.

86

662

January 13,1917.

Dr. George F. Kunz,
c/o Tiffany & Company,
5th Ave. & 37th Street,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Kunz:

Mr. Edison wishes me to ask if you know of any good book on Lapidary work, which treats on cutting and polishing gems, and gives details of the operations, machinery and methods. You will note that what he wants is a very practical, and not theoretical book.

If you can give me the name of such a book and the publisher, I will send for it and have it forwarded to me so that I can hand it to Mr. Edison.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1894.

606
609

January 13,1917.

Mr. E. G. Liebold,
Secretary to Mr. Henry Ford,
Detroit, Mich.

My dear Mr. Liebold:

Replying to your favor of the 9th instant in regard to the issuing of the commercial records made by the Hawaiians, let me say that they are coming through the Mill.

Mr. Edison has passed several of them, and our Recording Department representative told me today that they will put out the best ones in the near future.

We have listed for the March issue of Blue Amberola Records, one of the Records, namely, "Ellis March". As soon as I can obtain this, I shall send it to you.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1900.

419

January 13,1917.

Mitsui & Co., Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. S. Nomura.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 12th instant, enclosing your check, amounting to $25,000.00, on account of the semi-annual profit of our Woodward plant for the latter half of 1916. Please accept our thanks for this remittance and for your kind and prompt attention.

We will hurry forward the bills of October, November and December, so that the account for the latter half of 1916 can be closed.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/1890.

Phist

January 11,1917.

Mrs. R. P. Robinson,
259 Essex Street,
Bangor, Maine.

Dear Madam:

Allow me to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 2d instant, and in reply to say that the phonograph you have in your possession is not one of the very first, but is one of the early forms of the present commercial type of cylinder phonographs. It would be of no special value to me, as I already have several specimens.

I remember your father, W. R. Wills, who was the greatest expert in lapidary work known at the time.

Yours very truly,

A/1827.

598

January 15,1917.

Mr. C. E. Speirs,
c/o D. Van Nostrand Co.,
25 Park Place,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Speirs:

Referring to my telephone conversation a few days in which I asked that you kindly send over some books on Lapidary work for Mr. Edison's perusal.

The books sent over by you reached here in good order and Mr. Edison has looked them over. He has kept "The Gem Cutters Craft" by Claremont, and I am therefore returning the other books, as follows, by Express today:

L'Art Du Lapidaire, Christen;
Treatise on Diamonds, Mawe;
Precious Stones, W.Goodchild;
Precious Stones, Burnham,

Thanking you for your prompt attention, and with kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

530

January 16,1917.

Mrs. Eva Van Skaik,
Sharonville, Ohio.
Route No. 1.

Dear Madam:

We received your manuscript copy of the song "Childhood Memories" together with a separate sheet containing the words. This has been examined by our Music Committee, and they do not find it available for our records. We, therefore, return the song and words to you, under separate cover, by registered mail.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

A/1918.

Hoxt

January 15,1917

Rev. E. H. Guenther,
506 Harrison Street,
La Porte, Ind.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your esteemed favor of the 10th instant, which I have read with a great deal of interest and gratification. Allow me to thank you for your kind expression of opinion in regard to the Diamond Disc.

In order to obtain the overtones we are compelled to use very hard material and very thick records. The lower the temperature, the harder the record becomes, naturally, by contraction, and the harder the record the more prominent the surface sounds. When the record is warm these sounds are softened.

I am working constantly on improvements to diminish these surface sounds without diminishing the very fine overtones. If these overtones were not present, the records would sound like those of our competitors, which have scarcely any overtones.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/1896.

Hunt

January 17,1917.

Mr. Clarence T. Eward,
505 W. 65th Place,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 15th instant, we beg to say that the only way we can tell whether a voice is suitable for our records is to have a trial record made, which is passed upon in the regular way by our Music Committee. We have only one Recording Studio, and that is at 79 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y.

We do not pay the expenses of singers coming to make a trial record, but if you should happen to be in New York City some time you can call in at the Recording Studio and they will take a trial record of your voice.

We feel that it is due to you to say that there is very little encouragement to offer, as we can obtain hundreds of fine voices in New York City alone, and our present list of artists is quite full.

We return your letters of recommendation herewith.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory

A/1926.

Enclosures.

56

January 17,1917

The Secretary of Agriculture,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

For a long time I have been interested in the educational possibilities of motion pictures and believe that the day is rapidly approaching when they will be widely used for the dissemination of information, not only through theatres but in colleges and schools as well. I believe that the films offer an excellent opportunity to acquaint the public with the activities of Government departments.

I am interested in the motion pictures which your Department has been progressive enough to make. While I understand that most of them have been made for purposes of agricultural extension work, and, as such, have been widely restricted to the needs of the Department proper, I am told by one of my representatives who has seen the films that several of them were made with the purpose of giving the public an insight into the scope and usefulness of the national forests. It occurs to me that the exhibition of such films in theatres, colleges, schools, etc., would educate the public in the great work of the Forest Service and your Department generally, and aid to create a predisposition in favor of its continuance.

I am working on a new kind of motion pictures for the American public - good clean, wholesome films which I like to call - pictures for the entire family. Though - ful people all over the country who have the best interest of the growing generation at heart have been demanding pictures of this kind, and I am heading the movement to answer the demand. Although the majority of our new films will be conducted purely for entertaining purposes, there is a very definite place in our proposed programs for pictures in which there is educational interest as well as entertainment. Films of the national forests, creating in the mind of the growing boy thoughts of the great out-of-doors and instill in him pride for the care and conservation of our timber lands,

Hurst

would be ideal for the purposes which I have in mind.

If you believe that the young people of our country are entitled to something better than they have had in motion pictures, and if you feel that our people should be educated in the work of the Forest Service, I should like to have my people discuss with yours some sort of an arrangement whereby we would secure the use of them.

Your sanction of this general plan would be a distinct contribution to our general educational propaganda, and I shall hope for your early and favorable consideration.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A

Post

January 18,1917.

Mr. T. A. Adams,
24 Prospect Terrace,
Montclair, N.J.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 15th instant, and appreciate your invitation to become a member of the Essex County Tunnel Committee.

I must ask you to kindly excuse me. My business affairs and experimental work keep me busy about 18 hours a day, and I am already overloaded with work. Whenever my name appears in connection with any matter of a public nature, it brings upon me large additions to my mail, which is already too great for the time that I am able to spare to dispose of it.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/1934.

Visit

January 18,1917.

Mr. Frank Seaman,
34th St. and 8th Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Seaman:

Mrs. Edison and I appreciate very greatly your kind and tempting invitation and thank you for it.

We have a place in Florida, on the East Coast, which we have had for 32 years, and we go down there for six weeks every Winter. This season, our friends Ford, Burroughs and Burbank will come down also. So you see we are all fixed for this Winter, and we shall be unable to avail ourselves of your kind invitation.

I surely will remember Yama Farms in the coming Summer.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

A/1945.

491

January 19,1917.

Mr. H. S. Firestone,
Akron, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Firestone:

I have received your good letter of the 15th instant, and am glad to learn you are going to take a vacation down in Florida.

When you get in your Florida home and Ford and I get in ours, we will arrange a camping-out voyage and let you know so that you can come over and join us and bring your son along.

I ordered all my camping outfit and four more small tents sent to Florida today.

I have advised my Cement people that you are going to specify "Edison Cement" in the building that you are planning to erect in Newark. Personally I am very glad to learn of it, and I am sure that my Cement people will also rejoice.

I am glad to say that I am feeling alright again, and remain with kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/1963.

General Letterbook Series
Letterbook, LB-116 (1917)

This letterbook covers the period January-April 1917. Most of the correspondence is by Edison and William H. Meadowcroft. Some of the items pertain to war-related work for the U.S. Government, including submarine research conducted at Sandy Hook, New Jersey. There are also letters concerning the late Jonas W. Aylsworth, longtime Edison associate and developer of Condensite. Among the correspondents are C. C. C. Bradley, a nephew of electrical manufacturer and old-time Edison acquaintance Leverett Bradley; manufacturers John A. Brashear and Richard M. Colgate; and motion picture executive George Kleine.

The spine is stamped "Letters" and is marked "T.A.E. From Jan. 22, 1917 To April 26 1917." The number "54" also appears on the spine. The book contains 700 numbered pages and an index. Approximately 15 percent of the book has been selected.

Atkinson, Mrs. M. A.	20-
Adams, W. B. C.	50-
Aterite Co. Inc. M.H.	124-
Alwood, J. O.	145-
Alton, George C.	161-
American Oil & Supply Co.	173-
Ames, Dr. J. S.	175-
Aston, Chas.	182-
Allen, T. W.	230-
Albert, C.	243-
Aylsworth, Mrs. J. W.	278-
Albert, J. M.	304-
Alson, C. H.	311-
Arrington, Earl S.	335-
Adams, C. E.	336-
Andregg, M. Miss	338
Anderson, O. B.	372-
Armitage, L. Ray	392-
Armstrong, J. W.	433-
Applegate, L. M.	471-
Arnold, Geo.	481-
Adler, Bert.	535-
Annis, R.	546-
American Forestry Assn.	550-
Aldridge, Dr. B. V.	565-
American Chem. Society	568-
Appelberry, D. H.	589-
Altheimer, J.	606-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Brown, J. P.	393-
Blanding, Miss L. E.	408-
Boucher Co. Ltd. J. A.	419-632-633-672-
Brown, Willie	420-
Brown, A. H.	442-
Brooks, Thos. A.	477-
Busbee, Miss	482-
Bradly, N. H.	526-
Budick, H.	536-
Boger, James	545-
Bishop, Gutta Percha Co	558-
Beeler, W. H.	578-
Briggs, Dr. J. J.	586-
Babcock, A. E.	610-
Bergner, W.	620-
Biddle, J. G.	621-
Burnstead, H. A.	622-636-
Burrows, P. H	630-
Boling, Wm J.	631-
Biddle, J. G.	634-
Bailey, J. Lee	635-
Bowe, L. S.	655-
Bureau of Charities & Correction	659-
Board of Managers	668-
Bates, Col. W. H.	671-
Barger, H. C.	690-

A-B

B

Buzzell, Debroy E.	19-
Babson, R. W.	28-
Balcock, Bertrand	30-
Bateholts, C. H.	36-292-537-
Bullard, W. L.	67-220-
Burke, J. D.	81-
Boes, Wm R.	108-
Baker, D.	126-168-
Brewer, Miss R.	130-
Beeby, J. H.	133-
Bissell, Jr. E.	158-
Brewster & Co	167-
Beck, Miss L. A.	184-
Bradley, C. C.	190-
Badger & Sons, E. B.	193-
Brock, Edward	197-
Barnes, Lucien	198-
Brady, M. H.	201-
Brush, Geo. W.	224-
Billet, Henry	226-
Burns, Mrs J. E.	229-
Bender, G. W.	249
Becker, Jacob	279-
Brown, W. G.	280-
Bennett, Mr W. L.	299-
Blake, Burkart	302-
Beach, R. H.	303-
Brumbough, L. H.	318-
Bacon, Jr J.	322-347-629-
Burbank, Luther	324-
Byron, Geo	337-
Bernard, B.	339-
Bradly, C. C. C.	358-
Bonffon, E. W.	370-
Brown, H. E.	375-
Bowerman, J. P.	374-
Bosworth, R. L	375-
Blakelee, Dr. R. W	499-

Chadwick, L. S.	582-	
Compton, K. T.	587-623-	
Chapman, A. H.	598-	
Chubb, Hendon, Esq.	604-	
Catabush, N. C.	609-	
Calentine, J. C.	616-	
Cannon, D. H.	641-	
Colgate, H.	676-	
Collings Co. N.A.	677-	
Callis, B. O	678-	
Crockett, Joe.	691-	
Carlin, S. E.	692-	
Clarke, W. B.	698-	

C

Colgate, Richard M	4-66-
Cady, F.	23-
Cameron, Perry	24-
Carpenter, M.D.	34-
[illegible]	61-
Collins, Leo C	62-
Carden, Mrs. Meg	86-
Chickering, A.J.	95-
Cardey, M.E.	97-
Ca, Cy	106-
Cole, James M	139-
Case, H. D.	156-
Cline, Mrs. M	201-
Cady, F. H.	207-
Crouthers, Samuel	250-
Cripe, Seth	266-
Clark, J. M.	310-326-
Carrington, C. H.	320-
Cornelius, M.A.	333-
Cogset, Marcel	340-
Chapman, R.T.	341-
Calmerl Pub. Co.	361-
Cottrey, Mord	376-
Campbell, R. A.	388-
Carroll, H. M.	394-
Corhart Construction Co	400-401-
Crawford, M.R.	415-
Clough, Leo	426-
Cooper, Irwin	453-
Carter, Frank	459-
Carson, Miss Jane	560-
Crocker-Wheeler Co	474-
Conner, J.T.	509-
Cat, M.C.	513-
Cornwell, C.H.	529-
Colahich, M.C.	566-
Clark, M.C.	567-
Cole Arthur,	580-

Dittenhoefer, A. J.	25-234-
Delany, P. P.	124-
Doll, C. E.	252-
Depot, Quartermaster	307-351-
Duffy, Wm J.	362-
Dittard, Gustave,	366-
Dade, N. A.	395-
De Long, O. A.	410-
Dunne, Murphy & Dunne	411-
Davis Durkin Corse	430-
Dickson Pharmacal Co.	431-
Deane, H. H.	425-
Donnelly, Wm	461-
Demming, H. C.	476-
Dornberg, Lee,	517-
Dickerson, Miss M. C.	552-
Dunke, Mrs. E. L.	649-
Dreyfuss, L. Drs.	660-
Dudley, G. W.	673-
De Forrest, C. E.	688-
Deane, Prof. Wm	699-

D

Edison, Wm L.	10-
Edison, Mr Thomas	84-
Eschet Jr. Esq Hon	111-570-
Elliott, Oscar L.	122-
E. I. Du Pont, De Nemours & Co.	134-
English, Geo. L.	142-
Erwin, H. M. C.	147-
Emelie, J. H.	258-
Emerson School	281
Eberle, E. W.	297-
Elmore, Mrs. J. B.	409-
Edwards, H. N.	414-
Erikson, Mrs L. L.	518-
Eunkes, Jak.	617-
Ellwood, Louis Tube Wks.	624-

Fifth "A" Grade	44-
Fiske, F. H.	55-
Furbush, M.	63-
Fuld, Felix	82-
Forbes, B.C.	137-549-
Frees, Mrs L.	149-
Fenning, H. A.	163-176-
Ferri-Pisani, Comte	210-
Forland, P. J.	251-
Fison, L. Iger	245-
Falk, B. J.	280-
Fox, H. E.	299-
~~Fancy, L. D.~~	~~314-~~
Fuller, A. M.	378-
Francoeur, J. A.	379-
Foster, J. E.	396-
Fitchessett, L. A.	437-
French, H. K.	495-
Fry + Egan Co. J.A.	510-
Falk, W. A.	519-
Fagen, H. D.	575-
Field Jr C. E.	602-
Farley, Geo. W.	661-
Fletcher, R. D. L.	644-

Gravelle, Mrs Leo, R.	12-
Gasbir, Miss C. M.	51-131-
Gernebeck, H.	86-
Gauger, Miss Eva H.	118-
Grider Bros.	148-
Gourley, H. H.	177-
Gerke, Curt	238-
Gyble, Miss M. C.	262-
Gore, J. K.	315-
Garland, Miss M. M.	314-
Greenbaum, L. L.	321-
Greenwade, J. W.	327-
Grant, W. L.	337-
Gunter, Mrs K. B.	424-
Gonzales, Leidore	528-
Garcia, M.	529-
Gibson, M. A.	260-
Garvin, J. H. C.	389-
Giesler, Master L. C.	390-
Given, Mrs M. R.	392-
General Electric Co	6 5-
Goldsmit, C.	662-

Haney, Mrs. H.	452-
Harris & Ewing	483-
Hackett, Miss C. L.	500-
Holmes, & Blanchard Co.	512-
Hays, J. H.	527-
Hildridge, H.	564-
Harwood, C. M.	571-
Hadshire, Miss A. M.	603-
Hitchcock, H. K.	627-
Hoglin, B. O.	663-

A B C D E F G H

Hall, Clarence A. 8-
Hill, P. S. 27-
Haniquet, Geo 42-
Hatch, Chas. P. 56-
Harris, H. W. 65-
Hollander, R. W. 89-402-680-
Hudson, Martin Esq 91-
Horne, W. E. 99-100-119-153-154-155-
Hahn, George 123-
Hardwick, W. A. P. 152-
Holmquist, Gust Sec 165-
Harrison, Jas. P. 178-437-
Hewett, D. J. 202-
Hillsdale Roll & T. Co. 203-
Healy, R. T. 204-
Hurd, J. A. 205-
Hambrock, Henry 206
Hume-Gibbon, Robt. 214-
Harris, C. R. 217-
Husted, Harvey 228-
Hemle, C. H. 237-
Hill, Mrs M. 269-
Huette, Gustave 276-
Hydon, H. R. 283-
Harper & Brother 291-
Hodges, L. M. 296-
Harris & Ewing 298-608-642-
Horne, J. A. 306-
Howell, J. W. 329-
Hopkin, R. B. 342
Harris & Ewing 352-
Harding, E. W. 359-
Hildebrant, Geo. M. 377-
Harvey, L. P. 394-
Hollingsworth, J. B. 406-
Hawley, A. R. 418-
Hard, Horace 423-
Hinsdale, W. R. 448-

Ivey, A. S.	35-
Iles, George	115-
Island, D. W.	325-
Imhoff, L. Sr.	462-
Irine Ellwood	637-
Ingersoll & Bro. C. & M. Co.	638-
Ingersoll, Chas.	644-

Jennings Edwin	62
Janssen, H. W.	79-
Jesser, H. W.	102-
Jacker, R. J.	125-
Jones, H. A.	179-
Johnson, Geo. O.	271-
Johnson C. H.	329-
Jewett, Dr. H. B.	326-355-665-
Julius, King Optical Co	422-
Jones, Mrs J. D.	428-
Jordan, Miss C.	451-
Johnson, C. R.	463-
Johnson, Robt. C.	469-
Johns, Wm A.	522-
Jarvis, A	553-
Jewett, J. H.	291-
Jones, Miss A. E.	666-
Jones, Sydney	681-

J

Kendall, Calvin N. 3-295-
Kively, Miss Ella L. 18-
Kitzmiller, W. 66-
Kung, Anching 12-
Kell, Robert 96-
Kinney, A. W. 101-
Kamisky, Miss Ruth 116-
Keith Car Co. 138-
Kellogg, W. C. 149-
Krause, Horace 159-
Koerner, Theodore 162-
Kohn, Murry 191-
Kleine, Leo. 235-
Kempffert, W. 305-
Kagey, S. 343-
Kline, Miss L. C. 347-
Kirkland, M. C. 403-
Kerr, H. M. 464-
Kornfeld, J. 465-
Klipstein, C. C. 490-511-
Kelly, Mrs M. C. 497-
Kimball, C. H. 605-
King, A. A. 646-
Kenny, L. H. Dist. Sec. 654-
Kevizhyl, L. Von 656
Kergan, Fr. H. A. 674-
Kunkel, M. L. 682-

K

Libby, G. N. 29-
Loeb, Marcus 38-
Liebold, C. L. 41-43-232-551-276-
Lojer Products Co. 70-
Lenth, Mr & Mrs Geo. P. 97-
Liver, A. J. 103-
Library Publ. Assn. 207-
Lanuta, Eugene 284-
Longman, H. 317-
Lane, H. Van Z. 332-
Lieman, H. J. 416-
Lystrup, J. H. 438-
Lockworth, H. 515-
Lane Life Boat Co. C. M. 647-
Life Preserver Suit Co. Inc 683-
Lathrop, Mrs. M. 695-

Mathieu, Eugene	684-
Morley, Charles	685-
May, J. M.	696-
Mery, August	697-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

Mitsui & Co Ltd.	6-9-209-225-231-667-
Moore, Miss M. E.	14-
Marchbanks, Cliff C.	16-
Moses, Ed. D.	53-
Mallory, W. S.	83-136-240-444-
Milne, A	109-
Moore, W. C.	117-
Michael, P.	144-
Marsden Jewell Corp.	180-
Mershon, R. D.	181-
Mooney, W. C.	192.
Mecklmons, James L.	208-
Mackey, G. D.	239-
Morgan, J. M.	250-
Mardild, C. L.	253-
Machon, Dr. J. J.	257-
Munro, J. D.	261-
Milliken, W. P.	267-
Miller, Wm C.	270-
Mallickrodt, J. H.	273-
Mclaurin, Dr. R.	277-
Malmeton, C. H.	285-
Morse, M. H.	286-
Moffett, Cleveland	354-
Meigs, C. H.	380-
Mathews, S. H.	398-
Martin K. L.	445-528-
Mahler, Wm	455-
Montreal, Mrs J. K. & P.	456-
Moses, B. H	478-
Miller, H. A.	484-
Marsh, Mr	492-
Maguire, Fred.	504-
Mager, A. U.	507-
Marland, W. J.	562-
Manerval, Miss M.	583-
Marlowe, J.	645-

McGuire, W. P.	263-
McGary, C. R.	432-
McBride, A. S.	397-
McCracken, J. A.	381-
McGlumphy, J.	679-

Noble, Mrs Wm 7-
Newcome, Mrs M. E. 31-
Neubauer, Geo. M. 37-595
Nordberg, J. C. 75-
News & Observer 171-
Nichols, Eugene J. 194-
Newark Evening News 196-
Nicholas Princess, H.R.H. 287-
Nine, R. S. 344-
Nomura, S. 347-651-
Nagahana S. 369-
N. Y. American 387-
Naval Inspector of Ordnance 491-
Neuman, Prof. 508-
Nystrom, J. H. 520-
N. Y. Insulated Wire Co. 613-
N. Y. Telephone Co. 644-

Ondoff, Prof. W. R. 40-255-
Oliver Brothers, Inc. 157-
O'Reilly, Miss M. B. 144-
Osdyke, C. H. 350-
Orvis, Jas. H. 384-
Owen, Mrs. H. S. 480-
Oliphant, C. R. 548-
Owery, Miss H. L. 355-
Osborn, H. R. 614
Osdahl, John 693
O'Donnell, Wm. P. 689-

Porter, E. E.	13-
Pannell, E. L.	22-
Proudfoot's Commercial Agency	45-
Paddon, H. E.	46-
Penister, E. H.	47-
Pratt, N. W.	58-
Picket, S. H.	71-
Pretophate Company, Inc	104-
Preston, E. W	121-
Plesser, Otto	127-223-
Pahl, Albert	211-
Peterson, E. A.	236-
Podolsky, M. M.	245-
Partridge, A. R.	312-
Postal Telegraph Co	331-
Porter, A. E.	363-
Powell, H. M.	381-
Perry, H. A	427-
Pollister, R. S.	458-
Parlaghy, Francis L.	472-
Pierce, Jos. M.	506-
Putlins, Chas.	514-
Pickett, Mrs C. H.	521-
Price, R. J.	523-
Pokham, Wm Lee	541-
Penman, John	611-
Powers, C. C.	618
Powers, Phil.	615-

Reisig, P. G.	26-
Reilly, H. C.	39-
Rordorf, Prof. L.	59-
Reynolds, H. P.	76-
Rotham, H. L. M.D.	87-
Rosenberg, R. M.	88-
Rand, Chas. F	113-
Rambo, Miss E. A	146-
Rose, John	150-
Resnick, H. P.	185-218-
Roche, A. P.	227-
Reinbold, Dr. H.	241-
Roger, H.	272-
Rockefaw, J. H.	300-
Rorick, Floyd	316
Randolph, Geo. W.	345-
Rieting, Geo. W.	390-
Rieser, Ray.	405-
Read & Holliday Optical Co.	441-
Ruggles, Kent	446-
Reed, C. A.	454-699-
Ruby, C. C.	475-
Ross, D. M.	485-
Reges, Gen. R.	493-
Reid, Wm	502-
Riggins, Dr. C. N.	533-
Robinson Jr. Robt. J.	599-
R. U. V. Co. Inc.	601-
Rambo, J. J.	618-
R. U. V. Co. Inc	669-

Saunders, Miss. E. L.	503-
Scrainson, Wm H.	505-
Sorbay, Procus C.	540-
Sawyer, E. T.	542-
Shane, Geo. R.	544-
Savage, Dr. D. S.	626-643-
Spear, C. E.	561-
Strange, J. H.	563-
Sorensen, C. E.	572-686-
Smithson, A. J.	588-
Strickland, Mrs. M. M.	585-
Symonds, Dr. C. H.	652-
Stephens, D. B.	657-
Scott, Rev. W.	670-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M Mc N O P Q R S

Secretary of Agricalture 1-
Strawn, J. C. 15-
Seymour, Mrs L.B.A. 21-
Sisson, S. W. 54-
Sargent, Miss E. D. 72-
Schwab, Adolphe 73-
Senior & Stout, Inc. 74-
Stroble, Mrs H. M. 77-
Scherer, J. 105-
Schmid, W. A. 110-
Steele, H. L. 114-
Stoughton, Dec. B 140-
Stiefvater, Miss Johanna 160-
Siner, Raymum 164-
Slicher, John A. 166-
Schegl, Wm H. 172-
Scott, S. M. 187-
Shaw, J. A. 212-
Scully, Albert W. 215-
Smith, Jas. M. 216-
Stress, J. 244-
Sanford, J. C. 288-
Saunders, W. N. 313-
Stange, Fred 314-
Stovel, L. M. 328-
Sewer in Steamships & Pasbury Co 364-
Stanton, W. R. 365-
Small, Mr & Mrs W. C. 367-
Scott, A. M. 382-457-
Smith, Thad. L. 404-
Shands, W. R. 407-
Shanahan, T. H. 413-
Shulman, Louis 421-
Swisher, Miss A. A. 425-
Standard Undgr. Cable Co. 436-607-
Scherer, W. 443-
Secretaries A. B. Society 479-599.596
Smith, F. W. 494-

Tilden, Dr J. H. 2-
Tower, Mrs N. E. 5-
Trade News Service 17-
Tollefsen, C. H. 54-556-
The Iron Age 69-
Thompson, C. W. 85.
Tessler, Mrs A. 135-
Turner, Frank 141-
Thomas, Frederick 183-
Tovey, H. D. 222-289-424-
Tighe, Wm J. 248-
Tidball, Capt. Wm 330-
Tiller, Daniel 346-
Tower, H. L. 271-
Tucker, C. D. 447-
Thilks, Ernest 466
Taylor, J. R. 466
Turner, P. 478-
Thompson, J. C. 530-
Thorne, A. C. 534-
Trussed Concrete Steel Co 543-

United Safety Co. 32-64-
Union National Bank 169-
University of Cincinnati 524-

U

Vassalo, H. L.	48-	
Verlet, Mme. A.	94-	
Verrieres, A.	112-	
Vanlile, C.	259-	
Vetter J. A.	347-	
Van Mostrand Co, E.	353-	
Van de Berghe,	1173-	

Whitman, Jesse	468-
Wilson, R. C.	470-
Ward, L. P.	487-
Wiedendoff, Thos. P.	488-
Woofenden, Chas.	501-
White, Dr Milton	525-
Watkin H. C.	554-
White J. W.	600-
Werner & Pfleiderer Co	573-
Wolder, C. V.	574-
Weir, A. C.	593-
Williams & Wilkin Co	577-
Wilson Marine Equipment Co	634-640-
Wood, D. W.	653-
Wyes, Otto	658-
Williams & Wilkins Co	700-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M Mc N O P Q R S T U V W

Warwick, Eugene, Jr 11-
William, B. L. 33-
Welch, H. H. 53-
Wuke, C. R. 57-
Wiggins, Frank, Sec 78-
Wil, Hon W. P. Sec 91-
Wadsworth, Mrs N. C. 93-
Walroud, J. 107-
Waten, Geo. L. 128-
Wallace, Thomas 132-
Whiting, H. C. 170-214-360-412-516-521-611-612-628-650-
Wadsworth, Mrs N. C. 186-
Witzel, R. A. 189-446-532-
White, Miss M. L. 195-
Whytock, Wm R. 213-
Wang, Ya. 221-301
Williams, W. S. 242-
Weaver, Mr R. J. 268-
Williams C. C. 274-
Whiteman J. C. 275-584-687-
Wordsward, J. O 290-
Welch, Miss M. C. 304-
Wertendoff, T. D. 308-
Wickman, J. M. 334-
Warner, J. L 348-
Williams, T. 368-
Ward, J. W. 371-
Walch, C. T. D. 383-
Weber, H. O 384-
Wafer, W. W. 385-
Wyman, W. H. 386-
Ward, J. K. 399-
Wilson, J. R. 417-
Weber, Mrs L. 434-
Watson, Mr Godwin 449-
Wooten, R. H. 450-
Withers, Prof. S. R. 467-

Young, W. H.	151-
Yau, Miss A. B.	233-
Young, R. A.	246-
Young, A. A.	257-
Yellowoff, H. M.	567-

Hirst

January 23,1917.

Dr. J. H. Tilden,
3209 W. Fairview Pl.,
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Dr. Tilden:

I have received your very pleasant letter of the 17th instant, and beg to assure you of my sincere appreciation of the kind sentiments therein expressed. I am always glad to hear from our friends who love good music, for I am heartily in sympathy with them on that point.

Let me thank you for the complimentary copy of your book on Food. At a casual glance it looks very good and I am going to take it home and read it carefully.

With thanks for your good wishes, which are heartily reciprocated, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Alma Gluck

A/1996.

Post

60

January 23,1917.

Mr. Richard M. Colgate,
c/o Colgate & Company,
199 Fulton Street,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Colgate:

In reply to your inquiry of the 19th instant, let me say that the Electro-Magnetic Telegraph is correct.

I am glad to say that I am feeling myself again and have been hard at work for the last ten days. With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2012.

Hist

January 24,1917.

Mr. Clarence A. Hall,
c/o Penna. Salt Manufacturing Co.,
Widener Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Edison has been informed that you have made a recommendation to the Franklin Institute for the awarding of a medal for the inventions of Condensite and Halowax by the late Jonas Aylsworth. I am requested by Mr. Edison to write and ask you if such is the fact, and also to ask whether it would be of any avail if he should write a letter in support of such a recommendation, as Mr. Aylsworth was one of his most esteemed associates for many years.

If your reply is in the affirmative, will you kindly favor Mr. Edison with your views and suggestions as to the proper wording and addressee of such a letter.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A

6

209

January 24,1917.

Mitsui & Co., Ltd.,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. Nomura.

The United States Government calls for statistics in regard to the Coal and Coke industry, and also in regard to by-products of the Coke Ovens. A year ago we furnished them figures relating to the production for 1915, and now Mr. Edison is asked for the statistics for the year 1916. We already have from our reports the quantities in gallons of Benzol, Toluol and Solvent Naphtha, and the tons of Naphthaline. The Government asks also for the values in money.

As these values can be readily drawn from your books, will you kindly send us the following figures:

Total book value of Benzol for year 1916;
" " " " Toluol " " " ;
" " " " Solvent Naptha " " ;
" " " " Naphthaline " " ;

Will you also kindly indicate separately, the total amount of the adjustments we had to make during the year 1916 on account of claims for poor material.

I shall be glad to send you a copy of our report to the Government if you would like to have it. Trusting we are not troubling you too much, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2017.

West

January 24,1917.

Mr. Wm. L. Edison,
Morristown, N.J.

Dear William:

If my recollection is correct, you had an Automobile Supply business at one time. Did you ever put up a Spark Plug in cartons labelled "Edisons Sparker". The reason I ask is that out West they are selling a Spark Plug by this name, and I only found it out accidentally.

Kindly advise me at your early convenience.

Yours very truly,

A/2029.

First

234

January 25,1917.

Mr. A. J. Dittenhoefer,
32 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Dittenhoefer:

I have received your favor of the 22d instant and thank you for your kind offer of an autograph copy of your book "How we elected Lincoln". It will give me much pleasure to accept this book from you.

Yours very truly,

A/2032.

Hurst

January 23,1917.

Mr. Roger W. Babson,
c/o Babson's Statistical Organization,
Wellesley Hills, Mass.

Dear Mr. Babson:

I have received your favor of the 19th instant, but am obliged to say in reply that I cannot remember the conversation you specify. I am inclined to think that you must have gotten the idea from some one else.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/1989.

Visit

January 25, 1917.

Mr. Bertrand Babcock,
124 Carnegie Hall,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 21st instant has been received. Mr. Edison wishes us to say that he will see you tomorrow afternoon, January 26th, 3:00 P.M. On your arrival here at the Laboratory, please ask for Mr. Meadowcroft.

Yours very truly,
Edison Laboratory.

A

First

43

January 27,1917.

Mr. E. G. Liebold,
General Secretary to
Mr. Henry Ford,
Detroit, Mich.

My dear Mr. Liebold:

I am this morning in receipt of your favor of the 24th instant, in regard to the Hawaiians, and note that they will hold themselves in readiness to leave Detroit on Wednesday evening, February 28th, to come down here.

I have just consulted with Mr. Edison on the matter and he says that he would prefer to leave the matter of taking more records until later. In accordance with his usual method, Mr. Edison would not put out all their records at one time, but only one at a time, so we have enough on hand to last us for a while.

I think you had better not send the Hawaiians down here for the present. Mr. Edison expects to go to Florida about the end of February, and I rather infer from our conversation this morning that he wants to leave the matter of further records in abeyance until after his return.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2057

P.S. We are all very much pleased around here to have Mr. Ford's acceptance of the invitation to the Birthday Dinner.

Must

January 27,1917.

Mr. Chas. P. Hatch,

Plymouth, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 24th instant, and it is a matter of much regret to me to learn that you have any cause for complaint about the surface sound of the Disc records.

Unfortunately, the War over in Europe is responsible for many more things than the dreadful things we read in the newspapers. Various lines of industry in this country have suffered severely because of the inability to obtain raw materials that we formerly exported from abroad.

We have suffered in this direction. By reason of embargoes laid by the belligerent nations, I have been absolutely unable to get some of our important raw materials. I have worked night and day to find substitutes, and have succeeded, but of course it is impossible to invent and perfect substitutes and at the same time to have them come out as perfect as the original material. However, I am gradually working out all the troubles and I am quite sure you will find in our later records that the unpleasant surface sounds are very greatly diminished. I do not think I shall ever rest content until they are practically all eliminated.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2064.

Next

January 27, 1917.

Prof. Luigi Romeno,
Station S, Box 27,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Professor:

I have received your letter, and let me say in reply that I am just as much in the dark as you are, and do not know what to think in regard to Mrs. Edison's failure to reply to my letters. From the experience that I have had before, she does not reply promptly in matters of this kind, and there is absolutely nothing that I can do except to wait with patience until she chooses to do or say something. I cannot say or do anything further, but must await some action on Mrs. Edison's part. I am sorry, and all that I can advise you is that it will be better for you to let the whole matter rest. Perhaps it would have been better for your sake and mine never to have done anything about it.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Jos. H. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3079.

4

January 30,1917.

Mr. Richard M. Colgate,
105 Hudson Street,
Jersey City, N.J.

Dear Mr. Colgate:

At Mr. Edison's request, I am sending you two sample pieces of the white clay. Mr. Edison suggests that you put one of them in a pint of water and let it stand undisturbed until the next day.

Yours very truly,

Wm. H. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2090.

Hubbard

January 27, 1917.

Mr. Warren Kitzmiller,
Highland, Kansas.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 23d instant, let me say that in my opinion Elbert Hubbard was an unique personalty, - with a mind of immense originality, - a purely American type of man.

Yours very truly,

Fred A. Olson

A/2061.

Hurst

January 30,1917.

Mr. John D. Burke,
Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

Friend Burke:

I received your letter some little time ago, but have been so very busy that I really had no time to answer it. I read your letter with a great deal of interest, and it brought back to my memory some of the interesting things that took place so many years ago.

I remember you perfectly, and congratulate you on your good memory of what took place as a boy. I am glad to learn that you are in good health and trust you may have a continuance of it.

If I pass through Mount Clemens in our automobile, I shall certainly call and see you.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2088.

Must

January 30,1917.

Mr. Felix Fuld,
c/o L. Bamberger & Co.,
Newark, N.J.

Dear Mr. Fuld:

I have received your favor of the 27th instant, and am glad to learn that you are going to return my visit. I shall be very glad to see you and your friends on the fourteenth of February, and to have the pleasure of shaking hands with you all. I shall also be glad to have you and them look through the Laboratory.

Will you kindly call up my Assistant, Mr. W. H. Meadowcroft, and advise him a day ahead as to the probable time of your arrival, and he will see to it that I shall be on hand to meet you.

Yours very truly,

Thos. A. Edison

A/2064.

Hoist

February 2, 1917.

Mr. H. Gernsback,
Editor, The Experimenter Pub. Co., Inc.,
233 Fulton Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Gernsback:

I have received your favor of the 29th ultimo, and am glad to say that Mr. Edison has signified his willingness to give you a few minutes for an interview. You are fortunate, for he has been refusing similar requests right along for many months.

I would suggest about next Tuesday or Wednesday, but if you will call me up in the morning of either one of those days, say about 10 o'clock, I shall be better able to size up the situation as to whether that day will be a good one or not for the purpose.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/E180.

21 151

February 1,1917.

Hudson Maxim, Esq.,
698 St. Marks Avenue,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Maxim:

I am much obliged to you for your kindness in inviting me to the meeting of the Committee on Ordnance & Explosives on February 21st. I am sorry to say that I do not see any prospect of my doing so.

A few weeks ago, through accident, my throat became inflamed by nitrous acid fumes, and I was laid up at home for ten or eleven days. This was a very serious interruption to my exceedingly important work that I had on hand, and it has put me away behind, so at this moment I do not see any likelihood of me accepting your kind invitation.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/3117.

Post

February 1,1917.

Mr. Anching Kung,
No. 1 Tongshan Road,
Shanghai, China.

Dear Sir:-

Through the courtesy of Mr. W. P. Wei, the Secretary of the Chinese Legation, Washington, I have had the pleasure of receiving a "Buhdda on Goat", which you have kindly presented to me.

I have this gift at my house, and now write to acknowledge the same and to thank you for your kindness in sending me this gift.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2124.

Must

February 2,1917.

Mme. Alice Verlet,
637 Madison Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Verlet:

I have received your note of yesterday, and am sorry to learn that you have been suffering from an attack of La Grippe, but trust that you will very soon be entirely recovered from its effects.

I received your previous letter, and talked with Mr. W. H. Miller about it. He seems to be a hard man to suit. I have been working night and day for some time past, and this in conjunction with a very severe cold which kept me at home about ten days, together with War embargoes on our materials for phonograph records, has given me no time to think of anything else.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2129.

Must

February 2,1917.

CONFIDENTIAL:

Mr. H. G. Chickering,
Chemical Department,
E. I. Du Pont De Nemours & Co.,
Wilmington, Del.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your inquiry of the 31st ultimo, in regard to Mr. Nathan M. Elias. He worked for me for several months. He is a fair Chemist, but rather inexperienced and new to the business. I do not think he could manage men, but if he were used in Research work under proper direction, I think he will be alright.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2030.

First

February 2, 1917.

Mr. Robert Krill,
614 Axtell Street,
Kalamazoo, Mich.

Dear young Friend:

I have received your note of January 28th, and am sorry to learn that you had the misfortune to break your arm. From the fact that you wrote a letter with your left hand the day after the accident, you do not seem to have lost your courage. That's good.

I wish I could invent some device that would show your father how much your arm pains you, but I guess that is beyond me.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2126.

Hurst

February 5,1917.

Mr. Alexander Milne,
%The Newark Watch Case Material Co.,
19 Ward Street,
Newark, N.J.

Dear Sir:-

I have had the pleasure of calling Mr. Edison's attention to the fossil rock and the prospectus which you left with me. I have also handed him the jar of the product from this rock. He examined the same with a good deal of interest, and said that he will lay it aside for some future experiments to see whether he could make it useful in any of his lines of endeavor.

He was quite amused and pleased with the watch and he took it home. He wishes me to extend his thanks to you for this memento of your call.

Yours very truly,

Wm H Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2146.

Yost

February 3, 1917.

Mr. Chas. F. Rand,
71 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Rand:

Allow me to thank you for your favor of the 22d ultimo, and also for the copy of the book descriptive of the John Fritz medal. I am pleased to have this copy.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2151.

Hunt

February 6,1917.

Miss Ruth Kaminsky,
19 Leonard Street,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Miss Kaminsky:

I have received your favor of the 5th instant, and have not forgotten the promise that was made to taking a test record of your voice.

If you will take this letter to Mr. W. H. Miller, the Manager of our Recording Studio, at 79 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y., any day of the week but Saturday, he will have a trial record of your voice made, which will be submitted to the Music Committee for decision.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2167.

129

February 8,1917.

Must

M H-Aterite Co., Inc.,
55 John Street,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 3d instant has been received. Let me say, for your information, that Mr. Edison has fully recovered and has been at the Laboratory for some little time. He recently had another test made of Aterite in comparison with another non-corrosive metallic alloy.

I regret to be obliged to inform you that the other alloy was overwhelmingly superior in every instance, making Aterite entirely out of the question if the other alloy could be obtained.

I wish I could send you a better report, but of course, must stick to the facts.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2181.

Myatt

February 8,1917.

E. I. Du Pont De Nemours & Co.,

Wilmington, Delaware.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. W. J. R. Hill, Asst. Pur.Agent.

I am in receipt of your favor of the 6th instant, and will say in explanation that by reason of railway embargoes, we were unable to complete our shipments in January, but the shortage will be made up this month.

Our plant has been instructed to get off a carload as quickly as possible, and possibly the car may have moved before you receive this letter.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A

Visit

549

February 9,1917.

Mr. B. C. Forbes,
Equitable Bldg.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Forbes:

I am sorry that it is necessary to disappoint you in regard to the interview with Mr. Edison.

He is working for the Government now, and is putting in about 20 hours a day on the job. He has not seen his mail since last Friday.

I asked him this morning what we could do about you, and he said "Nothing at present, I am too busy".

I am afraid the only thing you can do is to wait patiently.

Yours very truly,

Wm Hammer Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2206.

Unit

February 16th, 1917.

Union National Bank,

Newark, N. J.

Gentlemen:-

Confirming telephone instructions of this afternoon, please arrange by wireless at once through the Dresdner Bank, Freiberg, Germany, a credit for $3,000.00 to be paid to Mrs. Marion E. Oeser of that city in ten monthly installments of $300.00 each, beginning March 1st, 1917.

My understanding is that you are to remit the $3,000.00 at once, so that in case of war, the money will be in Germany and available for payment to Mrs. Oeser. Check for $3,000.00 is enclosed.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Most

February 17,1917.

Dr. J. S. Ames,
Johns Hopkins University,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Dr. Ames:

I am informed that you are familiar with screens that permit only ultra violet light to go through them.

At the request of the Government, I am conducting some experiments in which such screens would be of advantage. If it is not a secret, I would like to have such information as you are free to give, enabling me to make some of such screens.

When you reply, will you kindly mark the envelope for the attention of Mr. Meadowcroft. He is my Assistant and will bring the letter to my attention immediately.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2253.

Hurst

February 21,1917.

Editor,
Newark Evening News,
Newark, N.J.

Dear Sir:-

I enclose herewith a clipping from your issue of yesterday's date, entitled "Silence greets questions about Edison's activities".

Do you think this it is the right thing for you to publish such information as is given in the enclosed article when the Government is trying to prevent this kind of news from being published?.

When I read in another column of your same issue a long article about the Espionage Bill passed by the Senate yesterday, I am still more surprised that a reputable newspaper should run counter to the wishes of the Government by publishing such an article as that enclosed herewith.

Yours very truly,

Thos. A. Edison

Enclosure.

A/2516.

170
360

February 22,1917.

Mr. F. A. Whiting,
11 State Street,
Framingham Center,
Mass.

Dear Mr. Whiting:

I have received your favor of the 20th instant, containing a few "reflections" and "notes by-the-way".

Although Mr. Edison is working about 20 hours a day for Uncle Sam, and incidentally we are all up to our ears in work, I showed him your notes, and he dropped his work to read them over very carefully.

He wishes me to tell you that they are very interesting indeed, and you can send along more of them whenever you feel like it. He wishes once more to express his appreciation of your enthusiastic interest.

Needless to say that is the way I feel about it myself.

Yours very truly,

W. H. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2333.

Most

February 22, 1917.

Mr. Thornton W. Allen, Secretary,
National Bird Sanctuary Associates, Inc.,
Robert Treat Hotel,
Newark, N.J.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 19th instant, and beg to say that you have my permission to include my name on the letter-head of the Association, according to the copy enclosed with your letter.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2347.

43

551

February 24,1917.

Mr. E. G. Liebold,
General Secretary to
Mr. Henry Ford,
Detroit, Mich.

My dear Mr. Liebold:

I must ask that you kindly pardon the long delay in acknowledging receipt of your favor of the 2d instant in which you enclosed the executed release of Mr. Henry Ford, together with individual assignments of the persons comprising the Ford Hawaiian Quintet. Mr. Edison has been working about 20 hours a day on Government experiments, and his mail is away in arrears. He has now seen your letter and the releases, and wishes me to write and thank you and to say that they are satisfactory.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2361.

Yost

February 3,1917.

Miss Ellen Beach Yaw,
Lark Ellen Ranch,
Covina, Cal.

Dear Miss Yaw:

I have received your favor of the 24th ultimo, and think you will quite understand when I explain to you that the list you have sent contains only those artists who have given recitals in which they sing with the phonograph itself.

Yours very truly,

A/2140.

Hpt

February 24,1917.

Mr. Geo. Kleine,
80 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Kleine:

Mr. Edison is working about 20 hours a day just now on Government experiments, and his mail has fallen into arrears. I brought to his attention your favor of the 20th instant, with enclosures of direct exposures on paper.

He wishes me to write and say to you that this looks good, but every attempt (and there have been many) has resulted in financial failure. For some unknown reason, the public does not take to it.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2369.

Just

February 26,1917.

Hon. John Sharp Williams,

Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Williams:

I have received your favor of the 20th instant in regard to Mr. Aud. I have not heard from this gentleman as yet, but when he comes I will see him.

For some weeks passed I have been busy day and night on some special experiments for the Government, and am giving my entire time to these. If I find I cannot do anything for Mr. Aud directly, perhaps I shall be able to steer him in the right direction.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2371.

Hist

2-28-17

Mr. L. B. Mansfield, Superintendent
Operating Bureau Accounts Department,
Edison Elec. Illuminating Co. of Boston,
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Mansfield:-

We have all been so rushed with work during the present month, on account of Mr. Edison being so busy day and night with Government experiments, that I cannot say for certain at this moment whether or not I acknowledged your favor of the 6th inst. enclosing copy of the poem composed in honor of Mr. Edison's Birthday. If I have not previously acknowledged it, please excuse the tardiness and throw the blame on Uncle Sam.

Let me say that the poem was received in good time for the dinner and was greatly admired, not only by Mr. Edison, but also by his family and by all of us. It was read on the memorable occasion, and was heartily applauded.

Mr. Edison wished me to convey his best thanks and warm appreciation of the sentiments expressed towards him by all his friends in the Boston Edison Company. He has had the framed copy of the poem sent up to his house, where I believe it will occupy an honored position.

With kind regards to you and all my

Mr. [illegible] Mansfield 2-28-17

other friends, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Wm H Meadowcroft

A.H.

Next

March 2, 1917.

Mrs. J. W. Aylsworth,
223 Midland Avenue,
East Orange, N.J.

My dear Mrs. Aylsworth;

I took up with Mr. Edison the matter referred to in your last letter, and he has instructed Mr. Mambert to reinstate the payment of Mr. Aylsworth's salary in full until July, and then reduce it to one-half, but he has not decided yet how long the half will be continued.

I am sure the above will be very acceptable news to you, and I am glad it is my privilege to write you to this effect.

I return, herewith, the two letters which you sent me.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2428.

Enclosures.

Pupt

March 1,1917.

Mr. B. J. Falk,
580 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Falk:

I received through Mr. Meadowcroft, the three photographs which you so kindly sent me, and I am writing to say that my family is not well pleased with any but the one standing up. I would not like you to use the others.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2392.

West

~~337~~

March 1,1917.

Major James Otis Woodward,
Commandant, The Burgesses Corps,
Albany, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

I am desirous of resigning my membership in the Burgesses Corps, and beg to ask that this letter may be taken as a request that the proper action to that effect be taken, and that my name be removed from the roster of the present life members.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edwards

A/2409.

Hert

March 2,1917.

Harper & Brothers,
Franklin Square,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 28th ultimo, and in reply will say that I have no objection to your making use of the letter which I wrote to Judge A. J. Dittenhoefer after receiving his book "How We Elected Lincoln".

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2430.

Next

March 5,1915.

Captain E. W. Eberle, U. S. N.,
Superintendent, United States Naval Academy,
Annapolis, Maryland.

My dear Captain Eberle:

I have received your favor of the 1st instant stating you have ordered from the Midshipmen's Store, the following books:

Elastic Strength of Guns, 1906,Alger;
American Practical Navigator,Bowditch;
Bullard's Naval Electricians'Textbook;
Alger's Exterior Ballistics, 1915;
Naval Ordnance,1915;
Robinson's Naval Construction;
Robinson's Manual of Wireless Telegraphy;
Range and Ballistic Tables, 1914.

All of the books mentioned have been received by me today in good condition. As to the pamphlet entitled "Practical Interior Ballistics" which is issued by the Bureau of Ordnance, I have written to Secretary Daniels asking if he will kindly issue instructions to the Bureau of Ordnance to have a copy of this sent me.

Thanking you for kind attention given, and with kind regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Next

March 5, 1917.

Blake & Burkart,
1100 Walnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Blake: Attention Mr. H. E. Blake:

Mr. Maxwell sent to me your favor of the 24th ultimo, together with the copy of Mr. Fechtenburg's Patent No. 1,216,222.

I find on investigation that Mr. Constable went over the matter quite thoroughly with Mr. Fechtenburg when the latter called at the Factory recently.

While Mr. Fechtenburg's invention is interesting from a technical point of view, I cannot consider its acquisition, as we should have to change over everything. It would mean not only a new type of records and new moulds and new manufacturing processes throughout, but it would also mean a new system of recording. A change like this would cost a fortune, and even then its success would be problematical.

I thank you for calling this matter to my attention, but am not interested. The copy of the patent is returned herewith.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2443.

Enclosure.

Hutt

March 5, 1917.

Mr. Waldemar Kaempffert,
Popular Science Monthly,
239 Fourth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Your favors of January 31st and February 28th to Mr. Hutchison are before me. My comments are as follows:

The Popular Science Monthly is well named, and its mission is being thoroughly carried out by its clear and interesting descriptions of current developments of art and science. It seems to me that the publication should appeal strongly to both technical and lay readers.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A

Yes

March 5, 1917.

Mr. C. H. Allison,
#34 Brookside,
Berkeley, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the 24th ultimo, we regret to say that we shall be unable to comply with your wish by printing on the cover or a slip of paper the words for every record. We would gladly do this, and contemplated it for some time, but the owners of the copyrights demanded such an exorbitant price that it was impossible to comply with their demand on account of the high cost.

Yours very truly,

EDISON LABORATORY,

HH

Hoyt

March 7, 1917.

Mr. David W. Ireland,
Fort Myers, Florida.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 3d instant in reference to building a sea wall in front of my Fort Myers property has been received. I shall not be able to get down to Florida this year, as I am busy day and night on Government experiments. Just now I cannot take the time to consider other matters, and therefore, shall not be able to do anything at present in regard to the sea wall.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2471.

Hurt
355

March 7, 1917.

Dr. F. B. Jewett, C. E.,
Western Electric Co.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Jewett:

Please pardon the delay in replying to your favor of the 1st instant in which you give a list of the material brought out here by your Engineers about February 21st or 22d.

We have been checking up this material and can find only 17 of the #146 Receivers. We will look around again for the other three, but thus far have been unable to find them.

The following items were taken or sent back by Mr. Mathes, as he did not use them:

2 - Type "V" elements #15020 and #15035;
1 - Circuit board on which was mounted
1 vacuum tube socket,
1 special #43-A retardation coil;
1 4-ohm rheostat;
1 1-mf.condenser.

I trust that your records in regard to the last mentioned items will correspond with this report about them.

Yours very truly,

Wm H Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2477.

First

651

March 8,1917.

Mr. S. Homura,
c/o Mitsui & Company, Ltd.,
25 Madison Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Homura:

Referring to your favor of the 5th instant, let me say that Mr. Edison has been very busy, but I have gotten his attention to the matter of the drawings for Mr. T. Iwase today. Mr. Edison has no objection to furnishing these to you if you wish to give them to Mr. Iwase. I am, therefore, forwarding to you, under separate cover, three blue prints, Nos. A-6023, B-6016 and C-6025, all drawings relating to the Edison Benzol plant.

Yours very truly,

A. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2486.

~~Flight~~

307

March 8,1917.

Depot Quartermaster,
Pier 12, East River,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

This letter is written to acknowledge the receipt of four boxes, Nos. 10583,10584,10585 and 10586, containing 2 Radio sets, table type; two radio Masts, and two motor generators, radio, 110 Volts, all of which you kindly delivered to our truck yesterday.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2488

First

March 9,1917.

D. Van Nostrand Co.,
25 Park Place,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Mr. Edison has received the following books from you:

Franklin's Experimental Researches;
Masters of Space - Tower;
Fighting Ships - Jane's
Elements of Industrial Chemistry - Rogers;
Purchasing - Twyford;
Chemical Works, their design, erection and equipment - Dyson & Clarkson;
Chemistry and Technolgy - Toch;
Atoms - Perrin;
Nature of matter and electricity -Comstock;
Brassey's Naval Annual.

Mr. Edison looked over the ten books mentioned above, and has retained the three latter. The other seven were returned to you via Express prepaid last night.

Thanking you for your attention, I remain,

Yours very truly,

W. H. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Hurst

February 9, 1917.

Mr. Cleveland Moffett,
c/o McClures Magazine,
44th & 20th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your recent favor, I beg to answer your questions as follows:

(1) No dishonest man can be or ever was happy.

(2) Commercial methods are very bad the World over.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

L/2187.

326
665

March 9,1917.

Dr. F. B. Jewett, C. E.,
Western Electric Co.,
463 West Street,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Jewett:

Since writing you on the 7th instant in regard to the material brought out here by your Engineers about February 21st or February 22d, our Mr. Kennedy has called my attention to the fact that Mr. Mathes telephoned him, and that he has subsequently found the following, which at the time of writing I was under the impression had been sent back. We therefore, have the following here, namely:

2 - Type "V" elements #15020 and 15035;
1 - Circuit board on which was mounted
1 vacuum tube socket;
1 special #43-A retardation coil;
1 4-ohm rheostat;
1 1-mf. condenser.

We are still unable to find the other three #146 Receivers.

Yours very truly,

W. A. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Test

Captain W. S. Grant, U. S. A.,
Department Signal Officer,
Army Building,
39 Whitehall Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to your favor of the 6th instant, Mr. Edison directs me to acknowledge the receipt of the following, which have been loaned to him:

2 250-watt Table type radio sets;
2 radio field masts, 40'.
2 110-volt D.C. radio motor generators.

Yours very truly,

W. H. Meadowcroft

Secretary to Mr. Edison.

First

March 9,1917.

Mr. C. C. C. Bradley,

Manchester, Iowa.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of the 5th instant, let me say that you and your family are laboring under a delusion.

I was never a student or helper in the shop of your late Uncle, Dr. Leverett Bradley. I had my own business at the time you mention, and I employed your Uncle to make various devices for me, for which I paid him at the time.

I never knew anything about his experiments or his records of experiments. He certainly did not give me any of his records, nor did I ever see them.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

First

-10-

Mr. [illegible],
Attorney and Solicitor,
[illegible] of Commerce Bldg.,
[illegible] Street,
[illegible],
[illegible].

Dear Sir:-

I have read your cover of the 5th inst. and appreciate very greatly all the good things you say about the Edison Diamond Disc Phonograph and Records.

It is a source of great regret to me that I have been able to put out such a comparatively limited number of records of really good music. The trouble is that since the War started it has been practically impossible for us to get the raw material for the body of our records, and I have been hard put to it to find substitutes.

We have a large number of Operatic selections recorded, and I expect to have them printed and put out as soon as we can get a supply of raw materials of good quality.

I am very much in sympathy with your desire for high class music and shall be glad when circumstances allow me to put out a good many of those records.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Exp

March 12,1917.

Mr. Arthur Williams, Pres.,
The American Museum of Safety,
Irving Place & 15th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Williams:

In reply to your favor of the 7th instant, let me say that you may use my name as an honorary member of the Exposition Committee of The Fourth Annual Exposition of Safety and Sanitation.

Of course, it is understood that I shall not be called upon to devote any time to the matter.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2531

March 12,1917.

Mr. S. Nagahama,
c/o Polytechnic Institute,
Port Arthur,
So. Manchuria,
China.

Dear Sir:-

Since I wrote to you on the 6th instant, I have received the leaves from the "Manchuria Daily News", describing the Engineering College at Port Arthur. It is a wonderful showing and a monument to the enterprising spirit of your people.

I showed it to Mr. Edison, who was greatly surprised to see what a complete and up-to-date equipment had been established at Port Arthur.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2536.

Just

March 12,1917.

Mr. E. W. Bonnaffon,
Pay Inspector, U.S.N.,
Office of the Supply Department,
Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Edison has received the enclosed document entitled "Order for Supplies or Services", addressed to the Crucible Steel Co. of America, Washington, D. C., covering one cap and windshield, 14-inch A.P. projectile, complete, Requisition No. 145 Ordnance.

The above named cap and windshield was delivered here between two and three weeks ago, having been sent to Mr. Edison by the order of the Secretary of the Navy.

The cap and windshield were sent to Mr. Edison merely for his inspection in connection with some experiments he is making for the Government. Having inspected the same, he has no further use for this cap and windshield, and wishes to return it.

We do not know just how to handle this matter so as to comply with the practice of the Department, and therefore this letter is written to ask for full instructions.

As to whether or not you will wish to return the enclosure is a matter which I shall have to leave to your discretion.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2532.

Enclosure.

Yupet

March 12, 1917.

Mr. C. K. D. Walsh, President,
The Dickson Pharmacal Company,
#129 E. 59th St.,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Lockwood of our Chemical Sales Department has called the attention of the Laboratory to the letter of Mrs. Thomas A. Edison, Jr. in regard to your product.

I am returning the letter to you, with the suggestion that you kindly refrain from using it as a testimonial. This suggestion is made in order to save Mr. Edison the embarrassment and additional work that would result from its publication. The public at large would not differentiate between Mr. Edison and the Junior, and his mail, which is already too heavy, would be further burdened by a lot of letters which would be sent to him in mistake.

Trusting that you will be agreeable to conform to this suggestion, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

EH

First

March 13,1917.

Editor,
New York American,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

On the 23d ultimo, I wrote you as follows:

"The Newark Evening News has promised not to publish anything hereafter regarding my experiments for the Government. Will you do the same?"

No answer to the above letter was received from you, although I received assurance from many of the Metropolitan dailies that they would comply with my suggestion. Among the replies that I received was one from the Evening Journal, and they promised that nothing concerning any of my experiments would be passed for publication without first obtaining my consent.

In view of the above I was greatly surprised to see an article on the front page of this morning's issue of the New York American, an article headed: "Edison Works on Device to Detect U-Boats", and giving information that can better be omitted entirely from newspapers at this time.

It would be a good thing for all concerned, if you will kindly refrain from mentioning my name in connection with Government work at this time. Can I not prevail upon you to take this view?

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/255.3.

First
401

March 15, 1917.

Carhart Construction Co.,
Atlantic Highlands, N.J.

Gentlemen:

In reference to passes for your men to erect structure on Pier at Sandy Hook Proving Grounds, I have taken the matter up with Capt. W. R. Bettison, Adjutant, who will communicate with you and also arrange for the transportation of lumber and other material on the Government Railway.

It is imperative that there be no unnecessary delays in erecting structure, as Capt. W. R. Bettison has promised me to give you all possible assistance to hurry things up.

Trusting you will give this your prompt attention, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

H00

March 15,1917.

Carhart Construction Co.,
Atlantic Highlands, N.J.

Gentlemen:

Confirming telephone conversation between our Mr. Chesler and your Mr. Carhart this morning, in reference to small structure to be erected on Sandy Hook Pier inside the Proving Grounds".

We understand that you agree to furnish all the material and labor necessary to erect this small shanty on the Pier as per blue print furnished, same to be properly anchored to Pier by means of bolts and completely covered with two-ply Rubberoid for the sum of two hundred ($200.00) dollars.

The structure must be well built to withstand severe wind storms and must be completed on or before Tuesday, March 20,1917.

Yours very truly,

Thos A. Edison

Enclosure.

Hyst

March 15,1917.

Miss Lora E. Blanding,
c/o Wheaton College,
Norton, Mass.

Dear Madam:

Replying to your favor of the 4th instant, we beg to say that we have no phonograph records made by Alfred Tennyson. Some 29 years ago one of our representatives took the early phonograph to England and recorded the voices of several famous Englishmen, among them, we believe, Alfred Tennyson. These records were sent over here, but nearly all of them were broken in-transit, and the Tennyson record was one of them.

We are, therefore, unable to help you out.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

A/2565.

First

March 13,1917.

Mr. F. J. Lisman,
61 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Lisman:

I have received your favor of the 12th instant enclosing copy of Mr.Klopman's letter of the 8th instant and the photographs of cars therein referred to.

When I sent Beach's letter to you I felt that it was a little waste of time, but thought that possibly you would like to see it. For a long time past I have been very much aware of Beach's continuous performance in flirting with Truth.

Yours very truly,

Thos. A. Edison

A/2554.

Dink

632

March 15,1917.

John A. Brashear Co., Ltd.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Gentlemen:

Please make the 4-1/2 inch doublet of 15-1/2 inches focal length quoted at $125.00 in your letter of the 13th instant.

I would like to know if you can obtain glass now to make a large number of such lenses, if they should prove satisfactory.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A

Rush

March 16,1917.

Julius King Optical Co.,
12 Maiden Lane,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. S. P. Ward:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 14th instant, and also of the one pair of Crooks lenses ground without focus. Mr. Edison likes these very much and thinks they will just fill the bill.

Now if you will kindly send me a list of all that you have shipped to me up to the present time, together with prices, I will have a regular Purchase Order made out by our Purchasing Department to cover the same.

Please do not send a regular invoice, as invoices should be made out on the blank forms which we send with each Purchase Order.

Thanking you for your kind and prompt attention, I remain,

Yours very truly,

W. F. [illegible]

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2589.

289

March 15, 1917.

Mr. Henry Doughty Tovey,
Director, University of Arkansas,
Fayetteville, Ark.

Dear Mr. Tovey:

Allow me to acknowledge receipt of the three photographs taken by you at my Florida home. They are beautiful, and I am going to take them home and preserve them.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your courtesy.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2581.

First

March 20,1917.

The A. & F. Brown Co.,
79 Barclay Street,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. R. G. Easton:

Your favor of the 19th instant, confirming quotation on Mill for making wood flour, together with photograph, has been received and shown to Mr. Edison.

I gave him yesterday the substance of our telephone conversation in regard to the output, and he wishes me to write to you and ask you if you will not kindly supplement your letter of yesterday with some statement as to the output, and also send him samples of wood flour which has been actually made by your Mills.

I explained to Mr. Edison that you laid a great deal of emphasis on the fact that the net output of the Mill would vary under many conditions, such as the kind of wood used, whether it was dried before being fed to the Mill, whether or not it was screened and kept free from lumps and grit, etc. Mr. Edison says that you may assume that the sawdust originally fed to the Mill would be clean and dry, and he would like to have a statement from you as to the net output from your 36" Mill under those conditions. He would like this statement to cover the net output using different kinds of wood, which of course, should be specified.

He is awaiting your answer together with the samples of the wood flour of various kinds of wood. Kindly give as full information as possible.

Yours very truly,

Wm H Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2617.

Hist

March 20,1917.

Mr. C. D. Ruska, Editor,
" Q S T ",
Hartford, Conn.

Dear Sir:-

Until I received your favor of the 14th instant and a copy of the current issue of Q S T, I was not aware of the fact that the American Radio Relay League issued such a splendid magazine. I have looked over this present number and find it very interesting.

It seems to me that a magazine so ably conducted ought to accomplish much for the advancement of the art in general, and I wish for Q S T a successful future.

It is very kind of you to place your columns open for suggestions which it may be desirable to bring before amateur wireless operators, and some day there may be reason to take advantage of this offer.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2612.

First

March 23, 1917.

Mr. Henry C. Demming,
15 & 17 North Third St.,
Harrisburg, Pa.

My dear Mr. Demming:

Referring to your favor of the 21st instant, I understand that the Government wants to absorb the gases from Diesel engines in Submarines so that they can run under water without the use of batteries. I think they also want a way of absorbing hydrogen gas from storage batteries.

If you want to submit anything, please write it out and I will send it to the Secretary of the Naval Consulting Board, who will refer it to one of the Special Committees.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2664.

Hyes

March 24,1917.

Mr. Thos. P. Westendorf,
1919 Michigan Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Westendorf:

I received your favor of the 15th instant in which you mention the fact that the young lady in the Chicago office stated that we did not keep them supplied with records of "I'll take you Home again Kathaleen".

To a certain extent this is true, as we had been temporarily short, but on the day on which you wrote your letter, the Chicago office must have received 420 of these records, which had been shipped 2 or 3 days before that time. This would leave a small balance still due to them on their orders at that time, and I think this balance has since been shipped.

Ever since you sent me copy of the song "Gib me dat watermellon", Mr. Edison has been working day and night on Government experiments and has not been able to take up his regular mail nor hear any music. You ask me to take great care of the Mss. and I am doing so by keeping it on my desk until he has time to look at it. As soon as I can get his attention to it, you may depend upon it I will do so.

There is no excuse necessary for what you call "butting in". We shall always be glad to give you our attention at any time.

Yours very truly,

W. H. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/

First

March 26,19[illegible] .

Subject: 14" cap and windshield furnished by Crucible Steel Company.

Naval Inspector of Ordnance,
Crucible Steel Company,
Harrison, N.J.

Dear Sir:-

We received a letter from the Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, requesting us to return to you the above named 14" cap and windshield furnished by Crucible Steel Company.

It is being forwarded by express today, prepaid, to Naval Inspector of Ordnance, Crucible Steel Company, Harrison, N.J.

Respectfully,

W. H. Meadowcroft
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2683.

Yours

March 24, 1917.

General R. Reyes,
Savoy Hotel,
New York, N.Y.

Dear General:

Your favor of the 22d instant has been shown to me. Just at present I do not see my mail regularly, as I am working about 20 hours a day on experiments for the Government, but my secretary took your letter out of the mail and showed it to me.

I regret that I shall be unable to make an appointment with you just now, as I never can be sure of being here at any particular time. My experiments may call me away to various places occasionally.

I cannot tell at this moment how long my work will keep me away, but later on would be glad to see you.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2477.

March 27,1917.

Mr. Norman K. French,
Palmer Physical Laboratory,
Princeton University,
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Mr. French:

Your favor of the 25th instant to Mr. Edison came to hand this morning, and also the four sets of balls. I have handed all to him, and he wishes me to thank you for your kind attention and say he will experiment with the balls and possibly write you later.

Yours very truly,

W. Hallenbeck

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2703.

490

March 29,1917.

Mr. E. C. Klipstein, Pres.,
E. C. Klipstein & Sons Co.,
644 Greenwich Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Klipstein:

Herewith I hand you a batch of papers relating to the cost of Mr. Edison's Benzidine plant. You will notice on the first paper a memorandum written by Mr. Edison, asking me to send you the papers just as they are.

You can return these papers to me with any reply that you are disposed to make.

Yours very truly,

Wm H. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2723.

Enclosures - 6.

Hurst

March 29,1917.

Mr. H. C. Carr, President,
The Automatic Transportation Co.,
Buffalo, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Carr:

Let me say in reply to your favor of the 27th instant that I have no connection with the Army people. I am working only for the Navy. The Naval Consulting Board is now trying to have the Government include the Army in the scope of their work, but so far have not succeeded, although they believe they can ultimately bring it about.

I do not know Secretary Baker personally. I think there will be plenty of work for all pretty soon as we have practically nothing in store compared to what we should have.

On account of provisions of the law, the Government is compelled to give the work to the lowest bidder, and the Officers have no option in the matter. They cannot take into account the time element or quickness of delivery, and under these circumstances no influence whatever has any effect.

At the next session, Congress will undoubtedly give the deciding Officers some latitude. If so, I believe I can then help you in this matter.

I return, herewith, the papers enclosed in your letter.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A. 2741.
Enclosures.

412

531

March 30,1917.

Mr. F. A. Whiting,
Framingham, Mass.

Dear Mr. Whiting:

I have received your favor of the 27th instant, and I have carefully noted all your remarks in regard to the box of cracked records which you will send in accordance with our previous correspondence. These shall receive attention when they come to hand.

As soon as I can get an opportunity, I am going to show the latter part of your letter to Mr. Edison. I think he will be interested in your remarks about "Indestructible" records, and possibly he may have something to say to you about it. It is quite difficult to get a few minutes of his attention these day, as he is mighty busy for Uncle Sam.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2752.

Hirst

March 12.1917.

Dr. Milton Whitney,
Chief of Bureau,
Bureau of Soils,
U.S.Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

I received your favor of the 23d instant. Our figures, after we had made Potash with the experimental apparatus, seemed to show that in the South, near Saltville, Va., and near great deposits of Feldspar and Coal, that Chloride of Potash could be made as cheaply as, if not cheaper than, German Potash was ever sold here.

This process is entirely different from the numerous ones of similar character, inasmuch as the only raw materials used are Feldspar and Salt. All other processes of a similar nature called for various additional ingredients, and the extra cost of these was fatal to cheapness.

There is no bi-product in this process except that we get a Soda Feldspar.

Yours very truly,

Thos. O. Hoen

L/2727.

Visit

April 2, 1917.

Mr. A. E. Thorne, Pres.,
Oceanic Investing Co.,
49 Wall Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 22d ultimo was received. As I understand it, The Hutchison Office Specialties Co., Inc., is owned entirely by Mr. M. R. Hutchison. He is reliable, and I would trust him for any reasonable amount. He has considerable capital, personally, and is a Member of the Naval Consulting Board of the United States.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2752.

Visit

April 12, 1917.

Hon. James H. Strange,
Mayor, Annapolis, Md.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 22d ultimo was received. I am engaged day and night on Government work, and am entirely too busy at present to receive the Committee.

The decision as to site is entirely with Secretary Daniels. No amount of argument could possibly convince me that Annapolis is the proper place for the proposed Experimental Laboratory.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2753.

Just

April 6,1917.

Mr. N. C. Cotabish,
General Sales Manager,
National Carbon Co.,
Cleveland, O.

Dear Mr. Cotabish:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 2d instant. Mr. Edison says that some of the seeds worked fairly, but not as much as the regular little balls which you furnished.

He wishes to know whether you have these little spheres in various sizes, and if so, will you kindly send samples of each. Kindly address them to me as usual.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2790.

Visit

April 6,1917.

Mr. W. C. Clark,
12 Camden Hill Road,
Upper Norwood, S. E.,
London, England.

Dear Sir:-

I received your kind favor of January 11th in due time, but the diffraction gratings on glass have reached me only today. They were held up in the Custom House by reason of certain technicalities of our law.

However, they are now in my hands, and I wish to thank you very much for these fine specimens of your work. I do not understand how one of your age can carry such a delicate operation through.

I thank you for your kind remembrance of me in sending me these specimens of your skill.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2754.

Test

April 6, 1917.

Mr. C. M. Harwood, Editor,
The Baltimore News,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 3d instant. I consider that the Naval Laboratory should be within 1-1/2 to 2 hours travelling time from New York City, the great mart, wherein supplies of every kind can be obtained quickly.

The value of such a Laboratory is in its ability to produce things quickly; also to be at the center of intensive and multifarious manufacturing; and also to be in close touch with the controllers of practically all of the largest industries, where personal influence can be brought to bear to get quick action on supplies.

Yours very truly,

Thos. O. Edison

A/2791.

First

686

April 7, 1917.

Mr. C. E. Sorensen,
c/o Henry Ford & Son,
Dearborn, Mich.

Dear Mr. Sorensen:

I have received your favor of the 5th instant, which will have attention in a few days.

I am sorry to say that Mr. Edison has been laid up for a few days with sickness, but I expect he will be down to the Laboratory next week. It is nothing serious, but the Doctor did not wish him to go out in the cold air.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2805.

Hurt

April 9,1917.

Mr. W. G. Besler, President,
Central Railroad Company of New Jersey,
Central 143 Liberty Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

As you are probably aware, I am conducting some experiments for the Government at the request of the Secretary of the Navy. These experiments are being conducted by myself and by my assistants under personal supervision.

Certain of these experiments are electrical, and are being conducted in the neighborhood of Sandy Hook. I would very much like to make use of the Atlantic Highlands dock of your Company in conducting some of the electrical experiments, and this letter is to ask your kind permission to do so.

Let me assure you that there is nothing in the experiments that will interfere with your operation of the dock, nor will there be anything that will cause any injury in anyway.

Yours very truly,

A/2817.

Hoist

April 9,1917.

Hon. Lucius F. C. Garvin,

Lonsdale, R. I.

My dear Sir:-

Allow me to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 6th instant and to say in reply that I am conducting for our Government a large number of experiments relating to National Defense and kindred lines.

Of course, it will be quite obvious to you that I am not at liberty to say just what lines I am following in these experiments, but I can say this much that the matter you mention has not been overlooked.

Yours very truly,

Edison

L/2816.

Hurt

623

April 10 1917.

Prof. Karl T. Compton,
c/o Palmer Physical Laboratory,
Princeton, N.J.

My dear Mr. Compton:

I have received your esteemed favor of the 5th instant, which I have shown to Mr. Edison. He was very much interested in the report which you have made. He has approved the expense item, and I will forward it to the Cashier and ask him to send you a check for the amount.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

W. Gilleaudeau

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2814.

Next

April 11, 1917.

Mr. J. H. Jewett,
General Sales Manager,
Ingersoll-Rand Co.,
11 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Jewett:

I have received your favor of the 9th instant, with blue print No. 95921, and have shown same to Mr. Edison.

He wishes me to say to you that he is greatly pleased to learn that your Engineering Department is working on another design, consisting of a vertical direct connected unit which will take up very much less space. If it has the capacity of the other one shown on the blue print, it will be very satisfactory so far as capacity is concerned. Mr. Edison hopes that it may be convenient to push the work on the new design, and he will be greatly pleased if you will let him see an outline drawing, with dimensions noted, as early as possible.

Yours very truly,

W. H. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2850.

Hendon

April 11,1917.

Hendon Chubb, Esq.,
Five South William Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Chubb:

I have received your favor of the 10th instant and appreciate very much your kindness in the matter of the boat.

Fortunately, I have been able to find a boat that meets my requirements, and have rented it, so we are all right now for our experiments.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2849.

Hart

April 11, 1917.

Mr. Curtis M. Kimball,
30 Congress Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your inquiry of the 5th instant, let me say that I am not familiar with Col. Henry C. Demming's capability as a mineralogist, so far as any actual knowledge goes.

I would suggest that you had better write to the Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Steel Co. at Harrisburg, Pa., who would be apt to know.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2847.

Deming has for many years had the reputation of a mineralogist

E

298
642

April 13,1917.

Harris & Ewing,
1311 F Street, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I must ask you to kindly pardon the dealy in acknowledging receipt of your favor of the 28th ultimo, and also of the 8 X 10 negative of Mr. Edison, which came safely to hand.

Allow me to thank you for your kind attention. I have forwarded your bill to the Cashier for payment.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2865.

P.S. The Saturday Evening Post has asked for a very short biographical sketch of Mr. Edison and a snap-shot picture. Would there be any objection on your part to our using your photo for this purpose, without any charge on your part?

F31

412

April 18,1917.

Mr. Fred. A. Whiting,
11 State Street,
Framingham Center,
Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Whiting:

I trust you will not think amiss of me if your letters do not receive prompt attention. They are always interesting to all of us, from Mr. Edison down.

I showed him your favor of the 7th instant, and he read it with a great deal of interest, but was too busy to make any personal notes to transmit to you. However, when he is through the pressing and important business of this turbulent period, you will undoubtedly hear from him once in a while, as in the past.

Now getting back to the end of last month, and to the letter you wrote me at the time you shipped the box of records to be exchanged for good ones, let me say that I have been thinking this matter over with our people, and before we make shipment to you I would like to submit a list that we suggest.

Herewith I enclose a numerical list of Diamond Disc records. We have ticked off a number of selections in this list, and have set all the records aside so that they are ready to be shipped to you if you accept this choice.

Please understand, however, that you have perfect liberty of choice, and if this list does not suit you, you are entirely at liberty to cross off our tick marks and suggest others by an "x" mark.

I have taken you at your word, and in accordance with your favor of the 5th instant, forward this suggested list.

611
628

Awaiting the favor of your reply, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Wm Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2864.

Enclosure.

Dupl.

636

April 14,1917.

Prof. H. A. Bumstead,
Yale College.
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Sir:-

I should like to inquire if the Heliometer you have at Yale can be demounted conveniently, in order to measure the parallax of terrestial objects, using a base line of three hundred to six hundred feet. I should like to have such measurements made in connection with my work for the Government, and would appreciate it if you would let me know whether or not your Heliometer is available for this purpose.

Yours very truly,

A.

612

650

April 16,1917.

Mr. F. A. Whiting,
11 State Street,
Framingham Center, Mass.

My dear Mr. Whiting:

According to the promises in my last letter, I showed Mr. Edison your favor of the 12th instant and also your little story "The Magic of Music".

He wants me to thank you for it and to say to you that it is beautifully expressed.

He also wishes me to say to you that he is working to the limit of his capacity for Uncle Sammy, but hopes to get back to music again when our mutual Uncle gets what he wants.

Yours sincerely,

W. H. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3366.

547

April 18,1917.

Mr. John Bacon, Jr.,
c/o Edison Benzol Plant,
Johnstown, Penna.

Dear Mr. Bacon:

I am very glad to get your favor of the 16th instant, informing me of the shipment on that day of 3770 gallons of Toluol to E.I.DuPont de Nemours Co., Barksdale, Wis., and wish to thank you for your close and prompt attention to the filling of this contract.

It is too bad our good sledding has gone, but it was fine while it lasted.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2397.

419
633

April 18,1917.

John A. Brashear Co.,Ltd.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Gentlemen:

Please make for me a Huygenian eyepiece for the 4-1/2 inch special short focus object glass.

Eq. focus about 2 inches
Diam.Eye stop focus .71 inch

If you will make one short tube for the eyepiece and one that is too long, we can determine the proper length here with the glass and cut off the long tube to the correct length. Please answer if you can furnish quickly. It is for Government experiments.

Yours very truly,
Thomas A. Edison
WHM

A.

Please address shipment to W. H. Mo...

Hist

April 18,1917.

Robt. H. Ingersoll & Bro.,
315 Fourth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Mr. Edison wishes me to extend his cordial thanks to you for your kindness and prompt attention in sending him the half-dozen main springs, such as are used in the Ingersoll watch. They have been safely received, and are at work for Uncle Sam.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2898.

608

April 18,1917.

Harris & Ewing,
1311 F Street Northwest,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 16th instant, and shall adopt your suggestion by requesting the Saturday Evening Post to communicate direct with you in regard to the snap-shot of Mr. Edison. Will you please bear in mind that when the Saturday Evening Post writes to you for the snap-shot, it would be well to supply the one of which we recently bought the negative from you. Mr. Edison personally likes that picture. As I understand it, this is a snap-shot enlarged.

I was in Washington yesterday for about two hours, and if I had time would have dropped in to see you, but was obliged to get back quickly.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/AVol.

353

April 21,1917.

Dr. F. B. Jewett,
Chief Engineer,
Western Electric Co.,
403 West Street,
New York, N.Y.

Your file EMC-GI

My dear Dr. Jewett:

Your favor of the 19th instant to Mr. Edison in regard to the amplifier and other material forwarded to us at various dates has been received and shown to him.

Mr. Edison wishes me to write to you and acknowledge receipt of the material as listed in your said letter, and to renew his thanks for your courtesies and prompt attention.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/2938.

April 23,1917.

Col. W. G. Bates,
71st N. Y. Infantry,
Middletown, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

I have received today carbon copy of a communication addressed by you to Lieutenant S.G. Warner under date of the 21st instant.

Such communication causes me considerable distress of mind for the reason that Lieutenant Warner is not in any way responsible for the action of the Secretary of War.

I wrote to you on March 20th, asking you to grant Lieutenant Warner a furlough to continue work with me on experiments for the Government. You will find copy of my letter enclosed herewith.

Not having received any acknowledgment of or reply to my letter, I wrote to the Secretary of War of my own volition.

For some time before he was ordered to join his regiment, Lieutenant Warner had been engaged with me on some important experiments for the United States Government, which I am making at the special request of the Secretary of the Navy. I take it for granted that there is no need for me to emphasize to you the urgency of Naval work at this time, and I am giving about 20 hours a day of my own personal time and effort to the Government.

If in my anxiety to push the work I have committed any breach of military etiquette, please put the whole blame on me, but do not visit it on Lieutenant Warner, as he is an innocent party in the matter.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/2946.

633

April 23,1917.

Mr. J. A. Brashear, Chairman,
John A. Brashear Co. Ltd.,
Pittsburgh, Penna.

Friend Brashear:

Mr. Meadowcroft has shown me your favor of the 20th instant. I will reply in the same order in which the subjects are treated in your letter.

First - Let me express my appreciation of your prompt attention to the matter of the Huygenian eye piece. The word "focus" after the words "Diameter eye stop" was an error.

Second - In regard to the Fiske Range Finder which you have on hand, I think that this will suit our purpose admirably. I should greatly appreciate it if you would lend me this instrument complete, and, if it is found necessary we can remount it. For the purpose of our experiments, forty-pounds will not be too heavy. It would be well, perhaps, to send us also the drawings of the instrument.

If you cannot send the complete range-finder, I shall be glad to get the objective and eye-piece, and I trust that, in either case, it will be convenient and agreeable to you to make an early shipment.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A.. If you are not on the job at 90, I will be surprised, providing you dont take too many vacations Edison

April 21,1917.

CONFIDENTIAL:

Mr.Gilbert Colgate,
199 Fulton Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Colgate:

Replying to your favor of the 18th instant, let me say that there was a Mr. Wilson who came out to the Laboratory one day to show me some apparatus in the nature of an ear drum, which he claimed to have invented.

I could not see that the device had any merits. He tried to see me again afterward, but I did not see him, as I deemed it would be a waste of time.

I cannot see that it should take much money to experiment with such a simple device as he showed me, and I would go a little slow.

Yours very truly,

Thos A. Edison

A/2932.

572

April 24,1917.

Mr. C. E. Sorensen,
c/o Henry Ford & Son,
Dearborn, Mich.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to your favor of the 5th instant, in regard to your difficulties with the copper plating, can you not provide the surface of the wheel with thousands of under cut teeth like a file with the teeth bevel in proper relation to the direction of rotation. This should anchor the copper to wheel. If you could make your worm glass-hard, you could make, I think, a cast wheel of malleable iron, as it is very soft and if the worm is hard enough they would work well together. The only trouble would be to get worm hard enough.

Have you tried a wood wheel, lubricated with bronze powder and oil?

In our Mill at Ogden we used a pinion of cast iron and wooden teeth where dust was bad and strain on teeth very great, because nothing else would stand the strain and not cut out.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

L.2949.

General Letterbook Series
Letterbook, LB-117 (1917-1918)

This letterbook covers the period April 1917-March 1918. Most of the correspondence is by Edison and William H. Meadowcroft. Included are items pertaining to Edison's benzol absorbing plants and other chemical manufacturing interests and to the commercial and technical development of his phonograph and storage battery. Also included are letters referring to war-related research, Edison's role as the president of the Naval Consulting Board, and his extended absence from the laboratory beginning in August 1917. Additional items concern members of Edison's family and the collection of books for his library. Among the correspondents are newspaper editor Arthur Brisbane, investors and longtime Edison associates Arthur I. Clymer and Theron I. Crane, industrialist Harvey S. Firestone, political cartoonist Rollin Kirby of the *New York World*, and representatives of Mitsui & Co.

The spine is stamped "Letters" and is labeled "Lab. Letter-Book 1917." The book contains 698 numbered pages and an index. Approximately 10 percent of the book has been selected.

Allison, T. J.	30-
Andrews, W. L.	100-
American Rights League	228-
Atkinson, H. B.	237-508-
Alexander, Mrs O.	238-
Anderson, A. D.	254-
Anderson, G. A.	276-
Armstrong, Dr Chas H.	277-
American Auto Asso.	371-
Abraham, L. B.	416-
Alexander, C.	431-
Anger, G.	488-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W

Bennell, A. W.	432-
Boswell, A. V	433-
Blade, E. H.	446-
Briebara	487-
Brenlano, Fred	496-
Bateman, J. A	520-
Burrell, L. A.	521-

B

Bergman, L. C.	6-
Batchelta, C. H.	7-420-
Baynard, J. S.	29-
Bauer, Prof. Wm. Chas.	32-112-
Batchelta, C. H.	45-84-372-
Bond, A. R.	62-
Bates, W. M.	65-
Brashear Co. Ltd. J. A.	101-
Boyles, Emmett,	102-
Baker, T. L.	113-
Blackman, Mgr. M. M.	131-
Bignold, L. B.	137-
Benneyan, Miss V.	144-
Brodley, H. M.	155-
Benevento, Sam.	182-
Bancker, W. H.	183-
Brown, D. L.	194-241-
Berman, W.	213-
Buckley, C. H.	229-
Berger, R. G.	234-
Barney- Mrs Joe.	261-
Burton, Mr & Mrs Darnell	263-
Breuner Co, J.	264-
Beanlien, A. H.	267-
Bird, Dr. J	270-
Baker & Co, Inc.	271-
Baron, T. J.	278-
Butterworth, C. R.	305-
Birbet, N. C.	306-
Boggess, R. A. Jr.	337-
Blaton Jr. J.	339-511-512-
Bly, P. E.	352-
Barr, M. A.	364-
Bailey, Geo. H.	383-
Barsler, R. E.	390-
Barter, C. W.	394-
Bizzozer, Charles	415-

C

Chase, R. S.	8-
Cox, H. L.	14-
Connelley, B. M.	15-
Clarke, Miss Ida	16-
Crawley, E. H.	27-
Cameron, C. S.	53-
Clark, W.	66-
Colkins, Clinton	103-
Ymer, C. L.	125-
Conover, J. C.	148-
Chadourne, Leon	150-
Central Stamping Co.	181-
Caballero, Juan	184-
Counsel General, H.B.M.	242-
Coolbroth, Miss A. P.	273-
Chief of Ordnance (U.S.Ary.)	299-
Chambless, C.	307-
Chattin, Dr J. H.	319-
Crandall, D. S.	320-
Cammen, L.	345-
Clark, J. C.	365-
Carr, J. H.	402-
Cofer, H. C.	408-
Corrano, H.	409-
Coles, W. A.	414-
Cowdrey, L. A.	417-
Carty, J. J.	422-
Clifford, Wm. G. J.	434-
Church, Sec. A.	435-
Carroll, D. J.	467-
Cloherty, R. J.	468-
Conlon, B. L.	481-
Chandler, G. E.	487-
Campbell, C. D.	497-
Carrigan, T. J.	540-
Carnovale L.	541-

Du Pont De Nemours & Co. C.A.	5-
Deans, Wm	54-67-
Duke, Chas. W.	58-
Doly, L.	88-
Doyle, C. J.	92-279-
Denison & Doyle Co	118-
Danaher, C. J.	138-
Dittenhofer, G. J.	170-
Doovvan, J. A.	209-
Dogan, Robt. J.	227-
Dewey, Mrs J. E.	255-
Davis, Wm C.	292-
De Citres, A. D	321-
Dodd, S. R.	334-
Deinbar, J.	335-
De Kalb. C.	353-509-
Davis, Mrs M. G.	354-
Dunbar, J.	373-
Dominion S. & S. Co	374-
Downs, Wm	389-
Dolps. J. P.	423-
Dawson, R.	425-
Deroe, H.W. & Raymolds, C.P. Co	498-

D

Edwards Jr. T. C.	46-
Elieback, J. N.	59-
Emerich, Miss M.	68-
Edmands & Co, T. H.	139-
Emerson Elect. Mfg. Co.	149-
Ellison, J. B.	158-
Edmands & Co, T. H.	159-
Easton, H. S.	185-
Eckikson, J. S.	239-
Edison, Wm. L.	272-
Edison, H. P.	436-
Edwards, Miss R. B.	490-
Egan, H. D.	529-

Fish, Royal	20-
Felts, W. B.	36-
Fuller, Co. C. W.	153-
Ford, W. W.	157-
Fletcher, Theodore	169-
Flower, J. B.	171-
Firestone, W. S.	186-386-
Ferris, Mrs C. A.	202-
Fieger, M.	206-
Fisher, Mrs H. C.	211-
Ferdinand Futman & Co	218-
Fogarty, C. C.	240-
Ford, T. S.	260-
Forbes, B. C.	280-486-
Frame, H. H.	318-
Foster, C. M.	426-
Fossell, G. F.	441-
Fowler, F. T.	499-
Faverly, Miss L	538-

F

Griffin, J. L.	41-
Gidder, Ray	60-
Gaunt, Dr. T. T.	69-
Goelet, Robt.	104-
Guisow, Nathan	127-
Gerchow, W. D.	128-
Green, Henry	133-
Guiterman, K. L.	172-
General Elect. Co.	210-437-
General Counsel, H. B. M.	214-
Gurney, W. J.	219-
Griffin, J. P.	222-
Gillup, G. L.	251-
Garner, J. M.	269-
Goodier, J. W.	291-
Goodell, G.	360-
Gooding, R. S.	363-
Gettell, T. C.	366-
Grogan, A.	375-
Greene, J. S. Dr.	378-
Garson, Roy	399-
Gentile, M.	401-
Gardiner, Carl	405-
Gomez, Phil.	491-
Goff, G.	492-
Gunther, J. J.	539-

G

Heller, C.	13-
Hubbard, Dora G.	18-
Hewitt, Albert	33-
Herrick, M. P.	89-
Heddleson, W. A.	93-
Holland, W. C.	105-187-376-
Huntington L. M.	119-
Hughes, Geo. E.	134-192-347-
Harley, M. G.	160-
Heddleson, W. A.	163-
Hinsdale, W. R.	217-
Holzer, Miss M.	221-
Holmes, C. A.	262-
Hess, Henry	268-
Hunt, J. L. S.	281-
Hollander, B. W.	282-330-
Hagermann, Max	322-340-
Hawkes, A. W.	331-
Hunt, C.	344-
Hill, Miss H. M.	355-
Hefner, Miss J. S.	356-
Hyde, A. D.	391-
Halle, Wm W.	396-
Harris, M. C.	427-546-
Haynes, Mrs. H.	438-
Hoover, H. C.	460-
Hurley, J. J.	469-
Hart, C. M.	495-
Hean, J. W.	513-
Hassenpflug, W. L.	519-
Hosterman, A. D.	530-

H

Snell, Samuel Irvin, C.	223- 308-323-	

Jones, Chas. H.	23-	
Jackson, D. D.	55-	
Jesser, H. W.	324-	
Jackson, E. P.	348-	
Johnson, J. L.	419-	
Jones, Mrs E. M.	439-	
Jenner, Chas.	515-	
Junkerfeld, P.	516-	
Johnson, R. H.	544-	

J

Kelly, Robt. T.	24-
Kirby, Rollin	70-90-94-
King, Mrs P. C.	79-
Kehn, Jerome	140-
Kerrick, C. B.	164-
Kameko, Y.	204-
King, Miss D. R.	233-
Kirby, J. M.	250-
Kegler, J.	253-
Kunkel, M. L.	316-
Kuckel, Hubert	325-
Kitchen, Dr J. M. W.	326-
Katz, A.	349-
Kelsey, Miss A. H.	380-
Kellog, R. H.	392-
Kentles, Chas.	407-
Kjelberg, V. C.	470-
Keystone Drilling Co	485-
Keller, Ch.	493-
Kugler Bros.	501-
Kamp, W. H.	517-
Kelly, Mrs M. C.	520-

K

Liebold, E. H.	4-207-
Lyur, H.	17-
Lamon, D.	19-
Lapsley, Mrs R. K.	42-
Lynd, R. L.	71-
Love, Dr. E. H.	72-
Lynot, B. Fr.	95-
Leal, John	141-
Laurent Prof. O.	151-
Lane Lifeboat Co, C. M.	154-
Lustucht, A.	156-
Lazard, Louis	173-
Lyatous, O.	188-
Lambie, W. D.	203-313-
Lee Wm J.	216-
Lehmon, C. J.	224-
Lambie, W. D	243-
Libby & Co, S. L.	252-
Leach, H. S.	259-
Lieb, J. H.	283-
Levie, R. G.	346-
Lipscomb, H. R.	350-
Love, Miss M.	359-
Leotand, S. J.	367-
Lamb. M. R.	368-
Lockwood, W. D	381-
Lewy, H.	403-
Lawrence. W. C.	440-
Lee. E. C.	465-
Larson, Hugo.	500-

Martin, H. H.	1-
Military Training Camp Committee	3-
Matthews, H. C.	9-
Martin, J. A.	25-
Mason, Walt.	34-
Mack, H. B.	40-
Moore, C. J.	47-
Mitsui & Co. Ltd.	48-64-106-193-
Mathias, Miss M.C.	96-
Marsh, C. D.	126-
Mallory, H. S.	135-236-480-
Miller, R.	145-524-
Mayer, Geo. M.	174-
Miller, H. C.	176-
Morris, A. B.	200-
Minge, Olof.	212-
Mass. Electric Mfg. Co.	274-
H. H. Martin	284-
Muller Jr. K.	295-
Mansfield, C. M.	315-
Martin, Charles	327-
Marion, J. B.	341-
Muller, L.	362-
Mershon, R. D.	369-400-
Meyer, H.	370-
Murry, C. H.	385-
Musselman, H.	418-
Merrihew, B. L.	442-
Matthews, T. W.	447-
Moriarty, T. M.	503-
Montrose & Clarke Co.	504-
Marye, S. T.	534-
Marshall, H.	542-
Millville Mfg. Co	545-

Mc. Cormick, Miss N. 57-
Mc Auliffe, J. J. 73-
Mc Donald, E. H. 74-
Mc donald, H. 97-
Mc. Auliffe, J. J. 107-
Mc Laughlin, Robt. J. 129-
Mc Lee Edison 161-
Mc Afee, Miss H. 189-215-
McCreade, H. P. 298-
Mc Dougall, A. 428-
Mc Donald, V. R. 429-
Mc Hardy, J. A. 441-
Mc Lennan, Mrs. M. H. 471-
Mc Cormick, Mrs H. 502-

Mc

Norton, A. H.	44-81-448-
Nat. Organ. for Pub. Health Nursing	85-
Niclaus, Augusto	120-
New York University	124-
N. Y. Edison Co.	165-514-
Nalbantain, K.	336-
Nagle, G. H.	393-
Nebel, R. C.	525-

N

Ostrander, Mrs G. L. 166-
Oswald, J. H. 175-
O'Pyke, C. H. Supt. 342-
O'Neal, Miss C. J. 395-

Parker, V. W. 108-
Petrick, Wm. V. 143-
Powell, Thos. C. 152-
Prokea, J. R. 190-
Pesitone Xaverious 195-
Phillips, W. A. 196-413-
Patten, Miss J. 205-
Pratt, M. M. 226-286-290
Pagne, C. A. 231-
Pflacheck = Stanley 285-
Powlison, C. F. 296-
Pearce, H. 378-
Postmaster, City 387-
Peckham, R. A. 388-
Peavey, J. 410-
Press Illustrating Serv. Inc. 411-
Phillips, H. L. 443-
Parker, A. J. 479-

Reed, J. H. 26-
Russian Supply Committee 39-
Rose, C. L. 61-
Room 901- 70 5th Ave 87-
Rogers, H. B. 121-
Rice Jr. C. H. 130-
Rose, H. H. 197-
Ricci, De Long 235-
Rio Leaders of the world assn. 287-
Rogan, J. R. 293-
Rogers, Miss L. M. 297-
Ryan, Dr. C. H. 309-
Romano, Prof. L 329- 397-
Reider, W. H. 332-
Russo, J. J. 358-
Rolker, A. M. 444-
Rittenhouse 449-
Ritson, T. A. 456-
Ryan, Mr. M. 472-
Roy, Alex 474-
Rorke, B. H. 505-
Rorke, B. H. 530-
Rowe, H. 531-
Ronald, Wm 536-

Shapiro, Charles H.	328-351-
Sargent, Mrs C. D.	357-
Schroeder, Geo. T.	382-
Schwab, Chas. M.	421-
Stein, Hirsch & Co.	424-
Somerford, W. W.	430-
Schultz, Ed.	450-
Searle, A. A.	451-
Strachan, D. A.	454-
Stearns, A.	455-
Spelling, J. C.	459-
Shepely, S.	462-
Stenberg, E.	464-
Smith, E.	466-
Stearns, R. S.	473-
Sickson, N. S.	475-
Sterling, R.	476-
Stewart, C. W.	487-
Stevens, J. C.	494-
Scholder, Miss H.	506-
Standard Car Equipment Co	507-
Shaw, N. C.	510-
Shafer, S. W.	523-
Steve, Miss R. R.	534-

A B C D E F G H I J K L M Mc N O P Q R S

Smith, Mrs L Van Cleve 10-
Stevenson, G. U. 11-
Stevenson, A. L. 28-
Sexton, Daniel 31-
Savoy, Ed. 37-162-
Seymour, J. M. 38-
Strickler, L. P. 50-83-
Sly, A. C. 51-
Strickler, W. C. 56-
Split, Miss C. J. 86-
Smith, Dr C. H. 98-
Sherwood, L. 104-
Sierichs, W. 110-
Smith, Rev. Otto 111-
Storey, Miss A. D. 115-
Strickler, Mrs D. 116-
Smith, N. H. 117-
Sullivan, L. A. 142-
Scandell, J. J. 146-168-
Snyder, Wm R. 147-
Stewart, H. J. 167-
Sterne, N. E. 177-265-333-
Speir, C. C. 201-
Scudder, M. 220-
Stapp, Louis 225-
Smithsonian Institution 230-
Schirig, C. R. Sec. 244-
Simon, Miss C. V. 245-
Secor, H. W. 246-
Scarborough, L. D. 266-
Smith, Huntington 288-338-
Silver, B. H. 294-
Sheerin, J. H. 301-
Stauder, Mrs J. D. 302-
Sherrerd, W. B. 304-
Snyder, A. V. D. 310-
Stephany, A. 311-

Thompson, Miss E. D.	21-
Tikemine, C. T.	132-
Tompkins Geo.	198-
Thompson, Mrs C. O.	199-
Thompson, Miss S. H.	289-
Taylor, Geo. H.	312-
Toomey, D. J.	314-
Thomas, C. K.	384-
Troje, O. R.	1106-
Thornton, A. R.	533-

Underwood, W. C.	75-	
U.S. Submarine Base & School	191-	
Underhill, Geo. H.	256-	

U

Vojnek, H. J.	76-	
Victory, J. H.	1158-	
Vanderveldt, E. M.	1189-	
Valier, Mrs. C.	537-	

V

Woodward, R. S.	2-
Welch, D.	12-52-78-
Whiting, H. A.	22-35-63-136-303-
Wald, Geo.	77-
Williams, L. P.	82-
Wells, T. A.	99-
Wendell, H. H.	114-
Woo, L. C.	122-
Wescott, B. B.	123-
Worthington Pumps & Mach. Corp.	178-
Ward, H. H.	179-
Wilbur, Robt. A.	180-
Wilhide, J. Thos.	232-
Wallace, Mrs A. C.	247-
Wood, H. A. W.	248-
Westendorf, Thos. P.	249-
Wise, B. A.	257-
Weatherby, H. B.	258-
Wilhelm, Donald	275-
Winters, C. C.	300-
Waning, H. W.	317-
Weiner, C. C.	343-
Wood, C. C.	361-
Western Elect Co.	379-
Woodmansee Jr. R. C.	404-
Wise, J. J.	412-
Wheeler, C. J.	445-
Welworth, H. R.	452-
Walsh, H. D.	453-
Wall, J. P.	457-
Wood, J. H.	477-
Weinstein, L.	478-
Waldo, H. L.	482-
West, J. E.	518-
Whitaker, Mrs L. L.	525-526-
Workman, M.	528-

Youmans, H. O.	80-543-	
Yuyama, S.	208-	

Just

April 27, 1917.

Military Training Camps Committee,
Room 802, Republic Building,
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

Referring to the application of E. T. Gundlach for enlistment in the Officers Reserve Corps.

I first met Mr. Gundlach some ten years ago, when he was handling a very successful mail order advertising campaign on the Edison phonograph. I have watched his work along this line since, and more especially on the selling plans of the New Edison, which has been out now some years. I have always understood that he has been highly successful, and I know that his work on the Edison phonograph certainly has been.

My personal acquaintance with him is limited to a few interviews and conferences, but I can say that he impressed me as a man of singular mental acumen, an exceptionally forceful young business man, and an executive of high type.

Yours very truly,

Desist

112

May 1, 1917.

Prof. Wm. Chas. Bauer,
College of Engineering,
Northwestern University,
Evanston, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 21st ultimo to Mr. Edison has been received and brought to his personal attention. He requests me to write and ask the voltage of your battery, and also whether or not you have a complete discharge curve.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3012.

22/63

May 2, 1917.

Mr. F. A. Whiting,
Framingham, Mass.

Dear Mr. Whiting:

Mr. Edison found time last night to look over the "idea" referred to in my letter to you yesterday. He wishes me to thank you for sending it, and to say that you have the right idea, and he is going to discuss your suggestion with Mr. Maxwell, who is of the same belief.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3050.

48

106

May 8,1917.

Mitsui & Co., Ltd.,
28 Madison Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. Morioka:

Mr. Meadowcroft has told me of the recent telephone conversations he has had with your Mr. Ichinomiya, concerning Para Amido Phenol, Base and Hydrochloride, and Para Phenylenediamine, and of his offers of these chemical products, namely,

1000 pounds of Para Amido Phenol Base at $4.50 per pound, less 1% cash discount;

1000 pounds of Para Amido Phenol Hydrochloride at $5.25 per pound, less 1% cash discount;

10,000 pounds Para Phenylenediamine at $3.00 per pound, less 2% cash discount.

We have received today your telephone message stating that you had received an acceptance of the offer of 10,000 pounds of Para Phenylenediamine, but yesterday, Mr. Meadowcroft telephoned to you at my request stating that we could only deliver 2,500 pounds of Para Phenylenediamine at once, and that we could not at this time give any date of delivery of the other 7500 pounds.

I have been contemplating some changes in my plant and have just recently turned over the sale of my chemical products to the New Jersey Products, Inc., a corporation which has opened an office at 165 Broadway, New York. The Manager of that Company has gone out of town and will not return until Saturday or Monday morning next, so I cannot tell what engagements they have made for the sale of Para Phenylenediamine. I shall therefore have to wait until the return of the Manager, Mr. [illegible] and then I will advise you.

In the meantime, will you kindly advise me whether we shall make shipment of the 2500 pounds of Para Phenylenediamine I regret very much this confusion which has unavoidably arisen.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

[illegible]

Hirst

90

May 8,1917.

Mr. Rollin Hirst,
Artist, c/o New York World,
Printing House Square,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Edison wishes me to ask whether the original of your cartoon in the daily World of May 7,1917, entitled "The impending conflict" is for sale. If so, will you please let me know the price.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3068.

Digest

May 10,1917.

Hon. Myron T. Herrick,

Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Herrick:

I received your esteemed favor of the 8th instant, enclosing blue print of a device invented by Messrs. Traves and Langger, for steering a torpedo in a zigzag course through a given area.

This device looks pretty good to me, and I have forwarded it to Mr. Thomas Robins, the Secretary of the Naval Consulting Board, 13 Park Row, New York City, requesting him to bring it to the attention of the proper Committee of the Board. In doing so, I called Mr. Robins special attention to this device, and your friends may hear from him or from some Committee of the Board a little later.

I am working about 20 hours a day on special lines of investigation for the Government, so I am unable to devote my own time to the development of the idea.

Trusting all is well with you and with kindest regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Thos A Edison

A/bd 17.

PS. I have just been told by one of my men that several years ago Maxim patented my idea like this the torpedo moving in an absolute spiral

E.

Thos A Edison

P.S. I have just been told by one of my men that several years ago Maxim patented an idea like this the Torpedo moving in a Solute spiral E.

70
94

May 10,1917.

Rollin Kirby, Esq.,
c/o New York World,
Printing House Square,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Kirby:

Mr. Meadowcroft showed me your very kind letter of the 10th instant, the sentiments of which gave me much gratification. Let me thank you for it and also for the original drawing of the cartoon "The Impending Conflict".

The drawing came in this morning, and I had it framed immediately. It is now hanging in my Library here at the Laboratory, and the "boys" admire it greatly. So do I.

Yours sincerely,

Thos A Edison

A/ 120.

90

May 10,1917.

Rollin Kirby, Esq.,
c/o The New York World,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Kirby:

I received your favor and have shown it to Mr. Edison. Your very kind expression pleased him greatly, and he will send you a personal note acknowledging the receipt of the original drawing of the cartoon, which came in this morning.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

P.S. By-the-way, the Editor of our little house organ, "Tips" wants to reproduce your cartoon, showing its presentation to Mr. Edison. I enclose sample copy of the little publication. Do you suppose that the "World" will have any objection to its reproduction under "Tips" if proper acknowledgment is given? If there is no objection, would you kindly have your people write us a line to this effect.

W.H.H.

Hurt

May 9,1917.

Dr. Edgar F. Smith, Provost,
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Doctor:

Your kind favor of the fifth instant has been received. The action of the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania in agreeing to confer upon me the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws is exceedingly gratifying and I consider it a great honor. If, however, the ceremony requires that I should face a crowd, I would rather not accept.

Please do not think me ungracious or unappreciative, but the fact is, the ceremonies attending the degree I received from Princeton University laid me up for three days afterward.

Sincerely yours,

Thos A Edison

A/3090.

Goelet

May 12,1917.

Mr. Robert Goelet,
65 West 35th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Edison wishes me to acknowledge the receipt of your kind invitation to meet Mr. Jacques Copeau on the 17th instant, and to thank you for your courtesy in extending this invitation.

He regrets that he will be unable to be present, as he is busy day and night on experiments for the Government, which necessitate his constant personal attention.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3132.

Yost

187

May 18,1917.

Mr. Walter E. Holland,
698 Monadnock Bldg.,
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Mr. Holland:

Your favor of the 2d instant to Mr. Edison was received and has had his personal attention.

He is awfully busy for the Government, working day and night and only catches a few hours of sleep whenever he can. He wishes me to reply to your letter for him and say that he cannot take up the patent matter just now, and it would be impossible to make any changes until the war is over.

Mr. Edison says that Mr. Hammerhoff made cells such as you describe along time ago, and has a German patent. Therefore, your patent would only be good on details.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/8142.

Trust

May 12,1917.

Hon. Geo. Otis Smith, Director,
Department of the Interior,
United States Geological Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Smith:

We owe you an apology for the delay in furnishing these statistics as to the output and value of benzol products shipped from Mr. Edison's Johnstown, Pa., and Woodward, Alabama, plants. We have all been so very busy around here that we are much behind in our work.

Herewith you will find the cards with the figures filled in. If it is not too much trouble, I shall be obliged if you will kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/8148.

Enclosures.

32

May 14,1917.

Prof. Wm. Chas. Bauer,
College of Engineering,
Northwestern University,
Evanston, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

I received your favor of the 8th instant, together with the discharge curves referred to therein. At the present time we shall be unable to take up the battery question as we are having a very hard time to get either men or supplies.

If you have the battery patented, you can send me the details so that I can make a test. I fear, however, that nitrobenzol will prevent its sale on account of the poisonous qualities of that chemical.

We manufacture nitrobenzol and are having great difficulty in preventing our men from being poisoned. One has already died from the effects.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/3148.

List

May 11, 1917.

New York University,
The Efficiency Bureau,
University Heights,
New York, N.Y.

Attention Mr. Richard K. Lehman:

Dear Sir:-

I have received your circular letter in regard to the coming graduation of a large class of Mechanical, Civil and Chemical Engineers.

I can use two Mechanical and one Electrical Engineer on experiments for the Government and can start them at $12.00 per week each. I should want to see a number of men so that I could make my own selections.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/3154.

Visit

May 16, 1917.

Mr. A. I. Clymer,

Van Wert, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Clymer:

I have been very much interested in reading your favor of the 10th instant, and assure you I am deeply gratified to learn that the Edison phonograph realizes your ideals so fully.

Allow me to thank you for your frank and intelligent criticism. The matter of accompaniments has been the subject of a great deal of discussion, and I am glad to get your views.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

4/3156.

Hurst

May [illegible]

Converse D. Marsh, Esq.,
230 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Marsh:

I have received your favor of the 15th instant in regard to your son. Hundreds of such requests have been made to me in the last few weeks, but owing to my delicate relations and official connection with the Government, I have been unable to see my way clear to write letters of endorsement or recommendation in cases of this kind.

As you will see, the position admits of no exceptions, so I shall have to ask you to excuse me in your case.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/3164.

Hist

May 17,1917.

Mr. Eben T. Takamine,
Equitable Building,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 10th instant, and beg to express my thanks for your courtesy in giving me an opportunity to make an exhibit at the first chemical Industrial Exhibition in Tokyo, Japan.

If I were extending my chemical plants I should be greatly inclined to avail myself of this opportunity, but as I am gradually withdrawing from the chemical manufacturing line, I do not think it would be worth my while to make an exhibition in Japan.

Yours very truly,

A/3179.

Visit

192

May 17,1917.

Mr. Geo. A. Hughes, President,
Hughes Electric Heating Company,
5660 W. Taylor Street,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Hughes:

I certainly appreciate very much your kind favor of the 11th instant and your courteous offer to present to me a Hughes Electric Range.

I already have one in my home, but I could use one at the Laboratory, where we work night and day. It would enable my experimenters to prepare a hot meal when we are working nights.

Once more thanking you for your kind offer, I remain,

Yours very truly,

A/3178.

63
303

May 18,1917.

Mr. F. A. Whiting,
Eleven State Street,
Framingham, Mass.

Dear Mr. Whiting:

I received your favor of the 16th instant and have stirred up our people on hunting the tracer of the shipment of records. Once in a while we have one of these aggravating cases of a shipment which seems to have disappeared from the face of the earth, but which may eventually turn up after wandering hundreds of miles, although plainly and properly addressed to the consignee.

To offset this delay, I have asked Mr. Baldwin to make up a duplicate shipment to you and send it to you by Express. He is afraid that he will not be able to duplicate the entire shipment, but will do the best he can. If the missing shipment should turn up, you had better receive it and extract therefrom any which Mr. Baldwin cannot duplicate at this time, and then we will arrange with you by mail as to returning the remainder.

I showed Mr. Edison your letter so that he might note your remarks about Elizabeth Spencer. You struck a sympathetic chord in your mention of the music of bank-notes.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

75162.

Yuft

May 29,1917.

. W. A. Hiddleson, General Manager,
Central Service Company,
El Campo, Texas.

ear Sir:-

Referring to our previous correspondnce, especially to your favor of the 17th inst., et me say that I have made investigations and ind that about 3 years ago Mr. Thomas A. Edison, Jr., contracted for the purchase of an acetylene as plant to be used entirely for cooking. The plant was installed. He tried it for a week or ten days with all kinds of bad results. It was exploding all the time.

Unfortunately, he had signed a contract, but ordered the Acetylene Company to remove the plant, for it was not up to their representations. It was very difficult to get the Acetylene people to take the proper action, and there was about a year's correspondence on the matter, but finally Mr. Edison, Jr. got rid of the plant about two years ago.

Mr. Edison, Jr., tells me that he never had the slightest intention of lighting his house from the acetylene plant, and the concern from whom he bought the plant knew that he wanted it for cooking purposes only. They have no right to use his name.

Yours very truly,

A/S249.

Yost

May 24,1917.

Mr. Theodore Fletcher,
404 W. Houston Street,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 16th instant, together with copy of your specifications and drawings in regard to making large phonograph records, have been received.

Let me say in reply that several Inventors have taken out patents on a constant velocity disc. Every phase of this idea seems to have been patented.

In my opinion, it is not a commercial proposition, and we could not consider it.

I return your specifications and drawings herewith.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Enclosures.

A/3219.

Ward

386

June 8, 1917.

Mr. H. S. Firestone,

Akron, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Firestone:

I have received your esteemed favor of the 29th ultimo, in which you state that you have instructed the publishers to express twenty-five copies of the souvenir book "In Nature's Laboratory". They have not yet arrived, and when they come to hand I shall drop you a line.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/3284.

105

~~377~~

376

June 2, 1917.

Mr. Walter E. Holland,
698 Monadnock Bldg.,
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Mr. Holland:

Please excuse the delay in replying to your favor of the 18th ultimo. We have all been exceedingly busy around here, and you know how it goes, for you had the personal experience yourself.

I am sorry that I have been unable to show the description and invention of your drawing to Mr. Kammerhoff, as he is confined to the house with sickness. As soon as there is an opportunity to discuss the matter with him, I shall do so.

May I venture to inquire personally whether you have set any figure in your mind as a price for your patent. Of course, you realize that under the great variety of peculiar war conditions, business requires a great deal more money than it use to, and finances have to be very carefully watched. Naturally, this is confidential, but on account of our friendly personal relations I feel as though I would like to steer you right. Let me suggest, for your information, that in my opinion it would not be wise for you to have any royalty idea, as I know the "Old Man" has always been violently opposed to royalty arrangements.

You will be glad to learn that he is feeling first rate, and while he is working day and night, usually nights, he is happy when having a lot of new problems to tackle.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

A/3286.

Digest

June 2,1917.

Commander Yates Stirling, Jr., U. S. N.,
U. S. Submarine Base and School,
New London, Conn.

My dear Sir:-

I am greatly pleased to be complimented with a copy of your book, which came to my hands a few days ago. It contains some information which I have been looking for, and am very glad to get it.

Please accept my thanks for your courtesy.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/3287.

134/347

June 4, 1917.

Mr. Geo. A. Hughes,
President, Hughes Electric Heating Co.,
5660 W. Taylor Street,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Hughes:

I have received your favor of the 1st instant, and appreciate very much your kindness in sending one of your style No. 50 Ranges to me at the Laboratory. You may rest assured that good use will be made of it when it arrives. It is coming just at an opportune time, as it will be very useful. Just now I am working through the nights with a special corps of assistants.

Please accept my thanks for your kindness.

Yours very truly,

A/3288.

106

193

June 4, 1917.

Mitsui & Co., Ltd.,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. M. Yasumoto:

I have received your favor of the 31st ultimo, and have delayed replying to the same until I could get an opportunity to consult Mr. Edison. I have talked with him about this matter, and he says that so far as he knows silk is not used in the manufacture of ammunition, and therefore he is unable to give any information on this point.

Personally, I do not know whether or not silk is used in connection with ammunition, but perhaps you can obtain definite information by writing to the Bureau of Ordnance, War Department, Washington, D.C.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3295.

[illegible]

Hist
413

June 4, 1917.

Major William A. Phillips,
Sandy Hook Proving Ground,
P.O. Fort Hancock, N.J.

Dear Sir:-

I received your favor of the 24th ultimo, in regard to Mr. J. Buford Hendrick, Jr., in which you make inquiry as to his qualifications for a commission in the Ordnance Section, Officers' Reserve Corps, U. S. Army.

It is quite true that Mr. Hendrick is employed as Superintendent of my Phenol and Aniline plants at Silver Lake, N.J., and while I am not personally well acquainted with his capabilities, I have made inquiries about him from the Manager of the plants.

I am informed that he was placed in the position of Superintendent simply through merit. His services have been in every way satisfactory. I am told that my plants will suffer the loss of a faithful and young Engineer if we loose the services of Mr. Hendrick, and the opinion of the management is that if he receives the appointment of an Officer in the Ordnance Department, the Government will be very fortunate in securing his services.

Yours very truly,

A/3296.

Hirst

Mr. C. E. Speirs,
c/o D. Van Nostrand Co.,
25 Park Place,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Speirs:

I am glad to see that you were able to get a copy of "Nystrom's Mechanics and Engineering". It arrived safely this morning, and I thank you for your kindness in following it up. I see it was originally published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., London, in 1887, so it is a little out of date. However, it is a mighty good book.

Will you please send a bill for same to Thomas A. Edison, and enclose it in an envelope addressed to me.

Yours very truly,

Wm. Hillcourt

A. [illegible]

June 6, 1917.

Miss Josephine Patten,
Delaware, Ohio.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 3d instant has been received. Mr. Edison wishes us to say in reply that the sticky stuff used behind the nets on land would not be applicable on the water, as it would be washed away by the waves.

As to steel nets, the English and French Warships have been using these for several years, and that part of the idea is not new.

Yours very truly,
Edison Laboratory.

A/3316.

Hist

June 11, 1917.

Miss Mame Holzer,
170-1/2 Market Street,
Hamilton, Ont.

Dear Miss Holzer:

Mr. Edison received your favor of the 27th ultimo, but is so very busy day and night on Government work that his mail has fallen into arrears.

He wishes us to say that he has not heard from his daughter Marion for three months, but he believes she is all right.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

A/3346.

Draft

June 11, 1917.

Mr. Samuel Insull,
72 West Adams Street,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Insull:

I am just sending this note to you to let you know that Mr. Edison has seen your note of the 1st instant and also the copy of the letter addressed to you by Prof. Colombo of Milan. He wishes me to thank you and to say that he found it very interesting.

Yours very truly,

W. H. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3357.

Wait

June 11, 1917.

Mr. C. J. Lehman,
457 25th Ave.,
Richmond District,
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 3d instant to Mr. Edison, suggesting the smoke bomb for hiding the movement of ships has been received. We would say, for your information, that the English and French ships have been using these smoke bombs (smudges) for over a year.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

A/3338.

Dupl

June 11, 1917.

The American Rights League,
2 West 45th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

I have received your favor of the 7th instant, enclosing copy of an address which it is proposed to issue as a public document and to have it cabled in full to the Russian newspapers. You request me in your letter to become one of the signers of this address, in case it meets with my approval.

I beg to say in reply that I am willing to have my name used as one of the signers of this document, and you may proceed on that understanding.

Yours very truly,

Thos. A. Edison

A/3351.

Draft

June 12, 1917.

Mr. Henry A. Wise Wood, Chairman,
Conference Committee on National Preparedness,
Forty-Second Street Building,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Your favor of the 29th ultimo to Mr. Edison was received and shown to him at the earliest possible moment. He is very busy day and night on work for the Government, and his mail is quite in arrears. This will account for the delay in reply.

He wishes to say that he is in sympathy with the additional work which the Conference Committee on National Preparedness is undertaking, and in reply to your letter you may put his name on the list of those who are ready to subscribe $250.00 toward the expenses of the Committee.

A check will be sent to you at any time you are ready. If you will kindly let me know when you want it, I will have it forwarded at once.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3354.

Music

June 13, 1917.

Mr. Thos. P. Westendorf,
1919 Michigan Avenue,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Westendorf:

Your favor of the 28th ultimo to Mr. Edison was received, and I have had to wait all this time to get an opportunity to show it to him. He is mighty busy for Uncle Sam these days and nights, and it is not at all easy to get his attention to anything else for even a few minutes.

I have been holding the song "Gib me that Watermillon" ever since you sent it to me, and now he says he will try and listen to it within a few days, so I am going to take it upstairs to our Musical Director and leave it with him so that he will let Mr. Edison hear it on the first possible occasion. The other song, of which you sent manuscript, will also be heard at the same time.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3379.

Hoist

June 14, 1917.

Mr. Edwin T. Holmes,
c/o Holmes Electric Protective Co.,
26 Cortlandt Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Holmes:

It was very kind of you to send me a copy of your book entitled "A Wonderful Fifty Years", which I find to be very interesting indeed. It will rank as a historical contribution in the art.

Please accept my thanks for your courtesy.

Yours very truly,

A/3381.

Hurt

June 19,1917.

Dr. John Bird,
c/o United University Club,
Pall Mall East, S. W. 1.,
London, England.

Dear Dr. Bird:

I have received your favor of the 22d ultimo, and although I cannot definitely recall your personal appearance, I remember your visit with Colonel Gouraud on the day that my daughter Madeline was born, and was glad to hear from you again.

Referring to the subject of your letter, let me say that the subject of aeroplanes is a virgin field to me, so far as any personal experience is concerned. Of course, I have read quite a little about them, but have never done any experimenting in connection with them. I have so many other things to do in my present work for our Government that it will not be possible for me to take up the study of aeroplanes now.

As you are probably aware, I am President of the Naval Consulting Board of the United States. This Board is composed of Engineering experts, and is divided up into sub-Committeess. If you wish to submit a description and drawings of the aeroplane referred to, you may send same to me and I will forward it to the Secretary of the Board, to be submitted to the proper Committee.

Let me say, for your information, that I cannot guarantee any secrecy after the matter leaves my hands, nor has the Board any jurisdiction ~~whatever~~ in the matter of compensation. I shall have to leave the decision of the matter in your hands.

Yours very truly,

Visit

June 20,1917.

Mr. J.L.Starr Hunt,
Avenida De San Francisco No. 1,
City of Mexico,
Mexico.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 2d instant to Mr. Edison has been received. It will probably not surprise you to learn that many persons have already suggested the use of powerful magnets for deflecting torpedoes or affecting the compasses of Submarines.

Magnets cannot be used for this purpose. The great trouble is that the effect of magnetism is not perceptible beyond a few feet, even with the most powerful magnets. Youwill see that this would be a fatal defect in your plan, either for attraction or for repulsion of a Submarine or torpedo.

Thanking you for your interest, we remain,

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

A/3432.

Hist

330

June 20,1917.

Mr. Ben. W. Hollander,
143 Kinney Street,
Newark, N.J.

My dear Mr. Hollander:

I received your favor of the 13th instant in due course together with the telegram from Montreal, and the sample of the Standard Aniline Products Company's Para Phenylenediamine, and the whole matter was brought to Mr. Edison's attention.

He wishes me to say to you that he is very much puzzled to learn of the results claimed by your Montreal house. He says that he can only account for it on the theory that there must be some impurity in the Standard stuff that is not in ours. He wishes me to say to you that he has done his utmost to have our factory produce a material of very high quality, and the Para which we now make is of the highest quality of any in the market, and complies fully to the standardized specifications, and Mr. Edison does not see any possibility of its being made of any higher grade than we now make.

He wishes me to say that he is exceedingly sorry to loose the trade of your Montreal house, but he cannot blame them for using another maker's product if it is more satisfactory than ours.

It is with more regret than I can express that I am oblig ed to write you as above, but of course, I must answer your complaint in accordance with Mr. Edison's instructions. I return the telegram herewith.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

226/290

June 20,1917.

Mr. Nathaniel M. Pratt,
Gen'l Secretary,
American Institute of Social Service,
Bible House,
Astor Place, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Pratt:

I have brought to Mr. Edison's attention your favor of the 12th instant, and he has decided to make a contribution of $50.00. Instructions have been given to our Treasurer to send the check, so you will probably receive it from him within the next day or two.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3437.

Hunt

338

June 18,1917.

Mr. Huntington Smith,
Managing Director,
The Animal Rescue League,
51 Carver Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 8th instant in regard to Animal Electrocution. I think that either the vapor of nitrobenzol or of aniline oil would be very effective. Nitrobenzol is not very expensive, and only costs from 16 to 18¢ per pound at the present time.

However, I think the electrical method is very good.

Yours very truly,

A/3408.

Hurt

June 21,1917.

Mr. Bruce R. Silver,
396 Harvard Street,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Your telegram has been received. I am sorry that our letter was delayed, but no harm has been done.

Mr. Edison says you may come on as soon as you like. He will be ready to put you to work.

Possibly you may not know how to get out here, so I will tell you. Take the Lackawanna Railroad from New York. You can leave New York by either 23d Street, Christopher or Barclay Street ferries, or you may go to any of the Hudson Tunnel stations in New York and take a train for Hoboken, which will leave you at the Lackawanna station. Get off the Lackawanna train at Orange, walk a block up to the main street and take a trolley for West Orange, which will bring you right to the door. The Laboratory is a brick building surrounded by a wire fence. There is a Gate-house and if you please inquire there for me, I will attend to the rest.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3445.

Trust

June 21,1917.

Mr. Edward E. Winters,
15 Broad Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Winters:

I am enclosing Mr. Edison's letter recommending your appointment as Major in the Reserve Corps. He refused to sign the duplicate copy, saying that he had never been asked to do such a thing before and he did not see any reason for it. I am simply reporting to you what took place.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3454.

Enclosure.

Next

June 21,1917.

To the Chief of Ordnance,
U. S. Army, War Department,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

I beg to state that I have known Mr. Edward E. Winters for a number of years. He was one of my Engineering assistants at the Schenectady Works. I am glad to recommend him for appointment as Major in the Reserve Corps.

Yours respectfully,

A/3452.

203

June 27,1917.

Mr. F. D. Lambie,
42 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Lambie:

I have received your favor of the 25th instant in regard to Mr. Wm. Howard Cole.

Knowing what I do of Mr. Edison's attitude in general, I am quite sure that it would be entirely useless for you to approach him on the subject of his becoming a member of the Committee you refer to. For a long time past, he has been withdrawing as much as possible from all affairs of a public or semi-public nature, as he is too much overburdened as it is.

Of course, I am very willing to submit to him a letter, should you care to address him on the subject, but I feel quite certain that you would not receive a favorable reply.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3479.

288

July 2,1917.

Mr. Huntington Smith, Managing Director,
The Animal Rescue League,
51 Carver Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 28th ultimo together with the copy of Dr. Kennelly's letter of the 20th ultimo.

Anything that Dr. Kennelly certifies to as being humane in the electrocution of animals would be accepted by me without any question.

Yours very truly,

Chas O Cole

A/3512.

Hunt

July 3, 1917.

Mr. Carleton Hunt,
Barrytown on Hudson, N.Y.

My dear Sir:-

Regarding the request made in your favor of the 28th ultimo, let me say that for some years past I have not been actively associated with electrical industries except in connection with storage and primary batteries, having disposed of my electrical manufacturing plants some years ago to the General Electric Company.

While it is true that through my reading and in other ways I have kept in touch, generally speaking, with what is being done electrically, I do not feel that I could do justice to suitable enumeration of the uses to which electricity is put at the present time in every day life.

I think that if you would communicate with the General Electric Co. at Schenectady, N.Y., you will be able to obtain the information of which you are in search.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Ed

a/3222.

Hunt

July 7, 1917.

Miss Jeannette S. Hepner,
551 West 170th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 6th instant has been received. In reply let me say that I am not a stockholder of the Submarine Exploration Company. I do not know anything about that Company and am not in any way interested therein.

Yours very truly,

Thos A. Edison

A/3548.

Hurst

July 12,1917.

American Auto Association,
501 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Will you please send me copy of your "New Jersey Main Travelled Routes" at this address, sending your bill to Mr. Thomas A. Edison, Orange, N.J.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Hurt

July 12,1917.

Dominion Iron & Steel Co.,

Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Gentlemen:

I assure you it is very distasteful and disagreeable to me to be compelled to write another letter to you asking a settlement for royalties due to me under our contract. You have several times promised that this matter should have prompt attention, and although our correspondence in regard to it has covered several months, no statement or remittance has yet materialized.

When our contract was made, and you were in a great rush to put up the plant to help out your Government, I did not lose any time, but gave you my personal services and also worked my men and part of my shop day and night for you without additional expense, and I am beginning to feel just a little provoked at the indifference displayed by your Company in this matter.

Yours very truly,

Copy to
D.I.&S.Co.,
Montreal,Que.

-/3585.

First

July 12,1917.

Mr. F. D. Lockwood,
c/o New Jersey Products, Inc.,
165 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 11th instant, in regard to Toluol.

As I am a comparatively small manufacturer, and as my contracts with Cambria and Woodward soon expire, I do not want to get mixed up in any discussion as to what the price of Toluol should be to the Government. I would not be just to the big producers, and besides, it will grow into a discussion that will get into the newspapers, and I am so busy that I am anxious to avoid anything of that kind.

You must please remember that the Woodward plant does not belong to me personally, and I am under contract to take the entire production of Toluol there at a certain price until the end of this year. The Johnstown plant belongs to me, and, if all the other producers of Toluol make a similar agreement, I should be willing to sell the Government all the Toluol I produce at Johnstown, until the termination of my agreement with the Cambria Company, at a price not exceeding $1.00 per gallon, subject to any contracts thus far made by Mr. Emery.

Regarding your estimate as to cost of production not exceeding 15¢ per gallon, you are wrong so far as I am concerned. My contracts with the Cambria and Woodward plants were only three-year contracts, and I have to figure on getting back the cost of my plants and my experimental costs. If I find my cost of Toluol is not more than 45¢, I shall ~~esteem myself~~ lucky.

I pay Cambria 18¢ Regardless

Yours very truly,

Chas Alchson

cy to Mr/Emery.

186

July 17,1917.

Mr. H. S. Firestone,

Akron, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Firestone:

I am much obliged for your kind favor of the 14th instant. I am sorry, but do not see how I can leave my work this Fall to join you and Mr. Ford in a camping trip. If I can't have that pleasure in August, we will have to work out a Florida inside boating trip for the coming Winter, which I think will please and astonish you and Mr. Ford because of the immense stretches of internal water and the wild life that few people have seen.

It is very kind of your friend Mr. F.L. Seely to ask my acceptance of some of his good homespun for a suit, but I am afraid I shall have to pass this kind offer by. This homespun is different from anything I have, and I am afraid it would be too heavy for me. Please forward my thanks to Mr. Seely and express my appreciation of his kind offer.

The newspaper story of 1,000 men interned for ten months in the Westinghouse factory is a fake so far as concerns anything I know about it.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

A/3640.

Enclosures.

Visit

July 17,1917.

Mr. Warren F. Kellog,
The Grolier Society,
2 West 45th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Kellog:

Referring back to your favor of the 1st ultimo, let me say that we have been entirely unable to overcome Mr. Edison's objection to photographing our Recording Studio and Disc Record plant. He will not permit photographs of any parts of these plants to be published.

We desire, however, to be of some service to you in connection with the article on "Machines That Talk", and for this purpose are having specially made up an enlarged model of the phonograph reproducer arm, diaphragm and disc, which will show very clearly the up and down method of recording. This is highly educational, and when the model is ready we shall have a photograph made and sent to you if Mr. Edison will permit, and at the present writing I think he will have no objection.

This may not be ready before I go away on my vacation at the end of this week, and if it is not I will arrange matters so that Mr. Maxwell will forward it to you in my absence.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3619.

369

July 17,1917.

Major Ralph D. Mershon,
80 Maiden Lane,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Mershon:

I have received your favor of the 13th instant. I understand from Mr. Meadowcroft that since writing that letter you have received the catalogues of the Edison Lelande Battery.

I think that as this battery gives off scarcely any gas, it could be sealed and worked in any position. Its voltage is .67 volts and it will last indefinitely on open circuit and give plenty of current on closed circuit.

If there is anything special that we can do for you, please let me know and we will try to help you out.

Yours very truly,

A/3605.

Visit

July 19,1917.

Mr. Joseph Peavoy,
Room 306, 24 Walker St.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Peavoy:

I regret to be obliged to report to you that the conclusions of our Music Committee were not favorable in regard to Mrs. Klein's record. They report that her voice does not possess the qualifications upon which we base our standards, and therefore, the Company will be unable to make use of her services for recording.

Please do not understand from this that any adverse criticism is made in regard to Mrs. Klein's voice. By reason of our technical system of recording, certain very special qualifications are necessary, and not all singers voices comply therewith. There are many Grand Opera singers who would like to sing for us, but whose voices do not comply with our requirements.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3656.

196

July 19,1917

Major Wm. A. Phillips,
Sandy Hook Proving Ground,
P. O. Fort Hancock, N.J.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 17th instant, in which you make inquiry about Mr. Leroy E. Briggs of 129 Waverly Street, Providence, R. I. It is true that he was employed by me for several years as a member of my technical staff.

Mr. Briggs is a good mechanic and has a good technical education. I think he would be a capable inspector of ammunitions. He is systematic and thorough, but lacks originality and speed.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/3668.

First

July 20, 1[illegible]7.

Stein, Hirsh & Company,
61 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Stein:

I received your favor of the 19th instant.

As the Lawyers would cost about $1[illegible]00.00, and as the amount involved is only $620.[illegible], suppose we each pay half and settle.

Our records show that the Carbolic Acid leaving our place last August was of good quality.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/3680.

July 27,1917

Mr. A. V. Boswell,
Post Office Box #283,
Joplin, Missouri.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 23rd instant has been received, in which you ask how it is possible to have a record made by a Mrs. McConnell.

In reply we wish to say that the only way to have this accomplished is to have Mrs. McConnell make a trial record at our Recording Studio, #79 Fifth Avenue, New York City. In this connection, let me say that we do not pay the expenses of anyone who wishes to have a trial record made for the purposes of becoming members of our Recording Staff. It may also be well to say that after this trial record is made, it is brought to the Laboratory here to be passed upon in the regular way by our Music Committee.

Should Mrs. McConnell at any time be in New York and would like to have a trial record made of her voice, she may call in at the above address, presenting this letter to Mr. Miller. Incidentally I may say that we have received quite a few requests of similar nature in the past two or three months.

Yours very truly

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

WHM:JHV

Most

July 30,1917.

Mr. Paul A. Strachan,
220 Whitehall Street,
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 19th instant has been received. I have read over your plan and believe it would be to the interest of the U. S. A. that the Government appropriate sufficient money to carry it out. It is the only way the Russian people can be educated as they cannot read, and even now in Petrograd merchants show pictures instead of words of the things they sell.

Pictures showing farm life and family life of the farmers of the West and village life of a true democracy would open the eyes of the Russian people that they would yearn for the same.

America would, I believe, if this scheme is carried out properly, be the one Country of all others that the Russian plain people would look up to.

Yours very truly,

A.

Cable Address "Edison New York"

From the Laboratory of Thomas A. Edison,

Orange, N.J.

AUGUST 13, 1917.

My dear Mr. Brisbane:

I particularly appreciate your congratulations on the 40th Anniversary of the invention of the Dictating Machine because you are a constant user of it for your remarkable writings.

That the Dictating Machine has proven a tool for thinkers, to facilitate and reproduce the fruits of their minds, is to me the most satisfactory and happy incident of the invention.

Wishing you every success in your Washington enterprise, I am,

Sincerely,

Thos A. Edison

Mr. Arthur Brisbane,
The Washington Times,
Washington, D.C.

280

August 17,1917.

Mr. B. C. Forbes,
Equitable Building,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Forbes:

I have just been able to show your favor of the 10th instant to Mr. Edison, regarding the de luxe edition of "Men Who Are Making America" and he wishes me to order one of these for him.

So, therefore, will you kindly put Mr. Edison's order for one of these on your books, addressing same to me in order that I may bring name to his notice when it is issued. You will, of course, make out your bill to Mr. Edison.

Yours very truly,

W.H. Meadowcroft
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

W. H.

Note

August 21,1917.

Miss Helene Scholder,
135 Circular Street,
Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Dear Miss Scholder:

Your favor of the 14th instant to Mr. Edison has been received, but I am afraid you will have to wait some little time before the matter can receive his personal attention. He is very busy on Government work just now, and is going away today for an indefinite period.

Perhaps it would be well for you to communicate with Mr. W. H. Miller, at our Recording Studio, 79 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/3704.

Sept. 26,1917.

Mitsui & Co., Limited,
85-87 Front Street,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen: Attention Mr. S. Nomura:

Mr. Edison is away from home at present, but in his absence I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 24th instant enclosing your check for $1471.00, the amount of your refund to Mr. Edison on account of the settlement which he made with you last May for imperfect Phenol.

I am sure that Mr. Edison will greatly appreciate the courtesy of your action in making this refund, and I have no doubt that he will write you a personal letter of thanks.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A.

October 8,1917.

Dr. S. L. Crane,
Real Estate Trust Bldg.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Crane:

I sent your favor of the 4th instant down to Mr. Edison by the first available messenger, and have just received his answer, which I will quote in full. It is as follows:

"Say to Mr. Crane I am very doubtful about unknown rays."

He did not enter into any other explanation. The above is all he said about it.

Yours very truly,

W. H. Meadowcroft

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

October 8,1917.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that Mr. Henri Coppel has been employed in the workshop of my Laboratory for about five and one-half years. He is an excellent workman, quick, steady and industrious, and I am sorry to lose him. I can recommend him highly for work in his line.

Thos A. Edison

October 3.1917

Miss Anna Case,
225 W. End Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Case:

Mr. Edison appreciates very much your courtesy in sending him the tickets for your recital on next Sunday afternoon, and regrets very much that neither he nor his family will be able to use them. He is going to Washington to be gone the remainder of the week, and unfortunately his family is going away too. He wishes me to express his cordial thanks to you for the courtesy, but thinks he had better return the tickets.

Yours very truly,

Wm H Meadowcroft
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A.

Enclosures.

October 29, [illegible]

Mr. Jean F. Webb,
104 West 42d Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 25th instant with enclosures has been received. He is away from the Laboratory on some special Government experiments, having been gone for about ten weeks and we do not know just when he will be back. Previous to his going away he has not been looking at his regular mail for weeks at a time, just concentrating, day and night, along special lines and requesting not to be disturbed unless of the most urgent necessity.

As we do not know when he will return, we think it best to return your enclosures. If it is your idea to bring the matter to the attention of the Navy Department on account of Mr. Edison's official connection, this may be done by communicating with Mr. Thomas Robins, Secretary, Naval Consulting Board, [illegible], New York, N.Y., who in turn will refer [illegible] proper Committee of the Board.

Enclosures.

WAA.

November 12,1917.

Brentano's,
5th Ave. and 27th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Mr. Edison is desirous of securing, as soon as published, one copy of "Whitaker's Almanac" for 1918, and shall be glad if you will enter this order on your books.

In order that there shall be no miscarriage and that the Almanac will reach Mr. Edison's hands promptly, will you kindly address the book to me at the Laboratory here so I can hand it to him soon as received.

Yours very truly,

[illegible]
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

610

C649]

Nov. 26,1917.

Mr. W. H. Mason,
c/o Merchant Shipbuilding Corpn.,
Bristol, Penna.

Dear Mr. Mason:

I have received your favor of the 19th instant, and also the package of correspondence and reports of the Benzol Plant. All this has been added to the other collection which you turned over to me from your desk upstairs so if we ever want to refer to it there will be no trouble about it.

I am glad to hear that you have such an army of men on the jump. Evidently there is something doing. If you have any sample ships that you send around for souvenirs, do not forget me.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Wm. H. Maxwell

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

A/4065.

December 19,1917.

Mitsui & Company, Limited,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Attention Mr. Shunzo Takaki:

I have received your favor of the 13th instant regarding Mitsui Mining Company's Phenol Plant, and have carefully noted what you say in connection therewith. The tables referred to in your letter were not enclosed. If you wish to send them so as to make my office file complete, I shall be glad to have them.

I wish to express my great regret, for your Company's sake, that your Phenol Plant was not a financial success. It was perhaps unfortunate that your plant came into operation at a time when there were such radical changes in selling prices.

Your fair and square dealing in voluntarily offering me 5% on the two contracts referred to is greatly appreciated. I wish to be as fair as yourselves and beg to say that while I thank you just as much as if I had received the money, I would prefer not to accept this money from you, as your plant, on the whole, did not operate with a profit. I took my chances along with yourselves, and am quite satisfied, and you are entirely welcomed to anything that I have been able to do for you.

I was agreeably surprised to learn that you were in America again, and hope that I may have the pleasure of seeing you while you are in the Country.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

A/4269.

January 2, 1916.

Mr. Shunso Takaki,
c/o Mitsui & Co., Ltd.,
25 Madison Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Takaki:

I have been working down in Washington for nearly three months, but came home for a few days around Christmas time. Your favor of December 22d, attaching copy of correspondence with Mr. Emery, was handed to me, and it gave me a great surprise, for I knew nothing whatever of Mr. Emery having written you any such letter.

I have been in Washington for a long time, attending to some Government experiments, and have not given much attention to current office business. If I had been consulted by Mr. Emery before writing you a letter with such a proposition, I should certainly have forbidden it.

You and I made an arrangement whereby you sold and I bought your Benzol for the year 1917 at 47-1/2 cents. When I make a contract I always expect to live up to my part of it and have no intention of doing otherwise in this case. I have instructed Mr. Emery accordingly.

Just for your information, let me call your attention to the statement of our actual sales, herewith enclosed. As you will see, this shows a total loss of over $24,000, but I still stick to my contract. It would seem from this statement that the prices given you by your friends were not quite correct.

As to the prices of Benzol and Toluol from Woodward from January 1,1916 to March 1s, 1916, I think you are right in proposing that those be sold by New Jersey Products, Inc., on a commission basis. I have asked Mr. Emery to take this matter up with you.

Hoping to see you while you are in America, and with my kindest regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Thos A Edison

A.
Enclosure.

General Letterbook Series
Letterbook, LB-118 (1918-1919)

This letterbook covers the period March-June 1918. There are also a few letters from August 1918, January-March 1919, and September 1919. Most of the correspondence is by William H. Meadowcroft. Included are letters pertaining to Edison's benzol absorbing plants and other chemical manufacturing interests. Other letters refer to Edison's work for the Naval Consulting Board in Washington, D.C., his extended absence from the laboratory, and his return to West Orange in May 1918. Also included is a letter to a prospective inventor explaining how Edison and his assistants handled the large volume of unsolicited ideas and suggestions received by the laboratory. A letter from April 15, 1918 (not selected) notes that "we have gone out of the motion picture business." Among the correspondents is Leon Ray Livingston, "America's most famous tramp," who published several books under the name "A-No. 1."

The spine is stamped "Letters" and is labeled "Lab. Letters. Mar 1918 Mar.1919." The book contains 698 numbered pages, all but 78 of which are blank, and an index. Approximately 10 percent of the letters have been selected.

American Oil Supply Co. 1-

American Historical Society - 49

A B C D E F G H I J K L M Mc N O P Q R S T U V W Y Z

Mr. J. W. Brooks	6-
Bridgeport Coach Lace Co.	11
Mr. G. A. Babcock.	39
Jno. Carlos Bailey	45

B

Brigadier Gen. Geo. R. Dyer 41

D

Major Hayden Eames O.R.C. 42

B

Miss Mary Evelyn Gremore 43-

G

Mr. Alfred D. Hyde	2-
Mr. Fred Henkel	44
Mr. G. H. Hickem	47

H

Mr. J. W. Jenkins Page 46

J

Mr. Wm. Jewett 3

Mr. J. H. Helme	7-	
Mr. A. W. Nuene.	40-	

Mr. Claude H. Okdyke 4

Messrs Chas. Pfizer & Co Inc. 8-

P

Mr H. Grosvenor Smith	9-10	
Mr L P Shan	12	

S

D. Van Nostrand Co 5=

Mrs A. W. Walker 48

W

March 7,1918.

Mr. Wm. Lovatt,
216 Broad Street,
Greenport, L.I., N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 26th ultimo has been received. Mr. Edison has been out of town ever since he came back from Greenport. He is still away and will not return for two or three months.

Let me say, for your information, that although Mr. Edison is President of the Naval Consulting Board, he does not see the thousands of inventions that are submitted and does not know anything about the details of them. When any communication in regard to an invention is sent to this office at the present time, we write to the parties and suggest that they communicate direct to the Naval Consulting Board, through its Secretary, Mr. Thomas Robins, 13 Park Row, New York. A few months ago we were in the habit of forwarding such communications to the Consulting Board ourselves, but Mr. Edison gave orders to change this course of procedure and established the policy above mentioned.

Mr. Edison has never been in the habit of looking over the communications from the various inventors. Therefore, he knows nothing of the particulars of your invention. Evidently you have already been in communication with Mr. Robins, and we shall have to refer you back to him as Mr. Edison is too busy to give the matter personal attention. We, therefore, return, herewith, your letter addressed to Mr.Edison.

Yours very truly,

[illegible]
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Inc [illegible].
74 [illegible].

March 20, 1918.

Mr. T. P. Murphy.
3298 Creston Ave.,
Bronx, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I am 64 years of age, but never before in my life have I received a letter reflecting upon my integrity until your letter of the 16th instant came to hand.

Quite naturally, my first impulse was to answer your letter with the severity that its unwarranted language calls for, but on second thoughts I have realized that you have been carried away with your feelings, because you do not know the simple facts. Hence, I have restrained my righteous anger and will ask you to read the following statement of facts, which, as you will see, are very simple.

Mr. Edison is an exceedingly busy man, who works day and night. Besides his present inventions he has on record, in several books, ideas of new inventions that would keep him busy for another hundred years if he lived that length of time. Therefore, he is long on ideas but short on time, and is not looking for ideas from the outside.

In spite of this, every day of the week, year after year, there comes in Mr. Edison's mail, unsolicited, letters offering to him ideas and inventions. He never sees any of them. I open all his mail and, by his instructions, show him only such letters as are of importance to his interests. The remainder I answer either by a dictated letter or by a "Form" letter, of which I have thirty different kinds. The letter to those offering ideas and inventions is Form 1. As I open Mr. Edison's mail, I mark the appropriate form number on the different letters and turn them over to my secretary for attention. They go into the files and ordinarily I never see them again. I merely initial the form letters when written.

Yesterday on receipt of your letter of the 16th instant I had my secretary go into the files and get out

your first letter, which d[illegible] I
had marked it "Form 1," an[illegible]
that time until yesterday. [illegible]
and does not know of its exist[illegible]
ted its contents, directly or indi[illegible]
in fact, had forgotten all about it, a[illegible]
of similar letters that have passed throu[illegible]

You will see, therefore, how utterly [illegible]
groundless your accusation is. Please remember th[illegible]
business houses unsolicited letters often remain unan[illegible]
but Mr. Edison desires us to be courteous to everyone,
if it is only a form letter.

I dislike to hurt your pride as an inventor, but
just want to say for your information that the idea adva n-
ced in your letter of Nov. 27, 1916, was many years old
when you advanced it.

Yours truly,

[illegible]

your first letter, which dated Nov. 27, 1916. I find I had marked it "Form 1," and I have [illegible] it since that time until yesterday. Mr. Edison has never seen it and does not know of its existence. I have never [illegible] indicated its contents, directly or indirectly, to Mr. Edison, and in fact, had forgotten all about it, [illegible] of similar letters that have passed through my hands.

You will see, therefore, how utterly [illegible] groundless your accusation is. Please remember that [illegible] business houses unsolicited letters often remain unanswered but Mr. Edison desires us to be courteous to everyone, [illegible] if it is only a form letter.

I dislike to hurt your pride as an inventor, but just want to say for your information that the idea advanced in your letter of Nov. 27, 1916, was many years old when you advanced it.

Yours truly,

[illegible]

April 12,1918.

Mr. F. A. Babcock,
240 West Utica Street,
Buffalo, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Babcock:

Mr. Edison has been away from the Laboratory for several months, and I have no definite idea when he will return, so I sent down to him your favor of the 2d instant.

I have just received it back with a memorandum written thereon by Mr. Edison, as follows:

> "Babcock: I will speak to our people, but I myself have been away for a year experimenting for the Government and cannot attend to it personally. Edison".

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

E/BOOK.

64

June 3,1918.

Commanding Officer,
U. S. Signal Corps,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

I understand Mr. Henri Lauer, at present in the Land Division, Trail Car Section of the U. S. Signal Corps, is about to make application for a Commission.

Mr. Lauer worked with me for several months in the beginning of last year in the experimental work which was then carried on for the Navy Department. His services were very satisfactory and I recommend him for a commission.

Respectfully yours,

[73]

August 14,1918.

Mr. Mark Workman, President,
Dominion Iron and Steel Company, Ltd.,
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Mr. Workman:

Your letter of July 31st has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In view of the facts as you have stated them, I must consider myself satisfied, and therefore I shall ask nothing further.

Yours very truly,

A.

January 21, 1919.

Mr. Leon Ray Livingston,
1143 West 23d Street,
Erie, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

I received your letter of January 15th and am very glad to learn that you are now settled down and enjoying life with your wife and children. Speaking from experience, you have acquired one of the elements to bring happiness into a home, that is, good music, and I hope you will all live long to enjoy it.

I shall always remember you as a man unique and original, and I certainly would be pleased to have an autographed copy of your books. In order to make sure that they will reach me please address them to my Assistant, Mr. W. H. Meadowcroft, Edison Laboratory, Orange, N.J.

If I find myself in Erie some day, I shall try and give myself the pleasure of a call on you.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Thos. A. Edison

A/6357.

Sept. 2,1919.

Mr. H. S. Firestone,

Akron, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Firestone:

I am in receipt of your letter of August 26th. I enjoyed the camping trip immensely and am feeling fine. It is good to learn that you have the same experience. I hope you will realize the enlarged business that you anticipate. Speaking about advertising, I enclose a rough memorandum of an idea that has occured to me. As I told you, the stock holding scheme has its defects.

I have several hundred newspaper clippings about our camping trip.

With thanks for your good wishes, and with kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

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277

END

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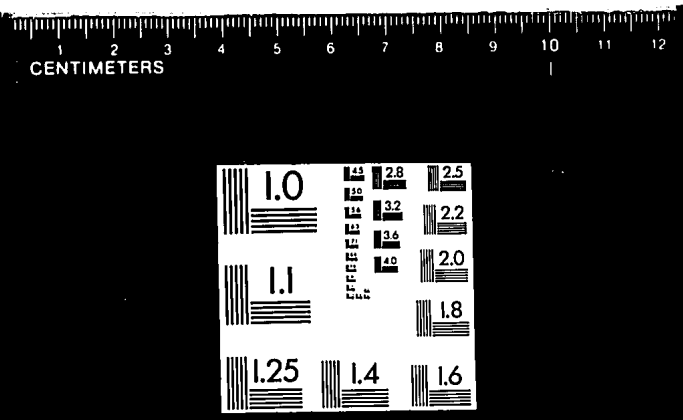

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